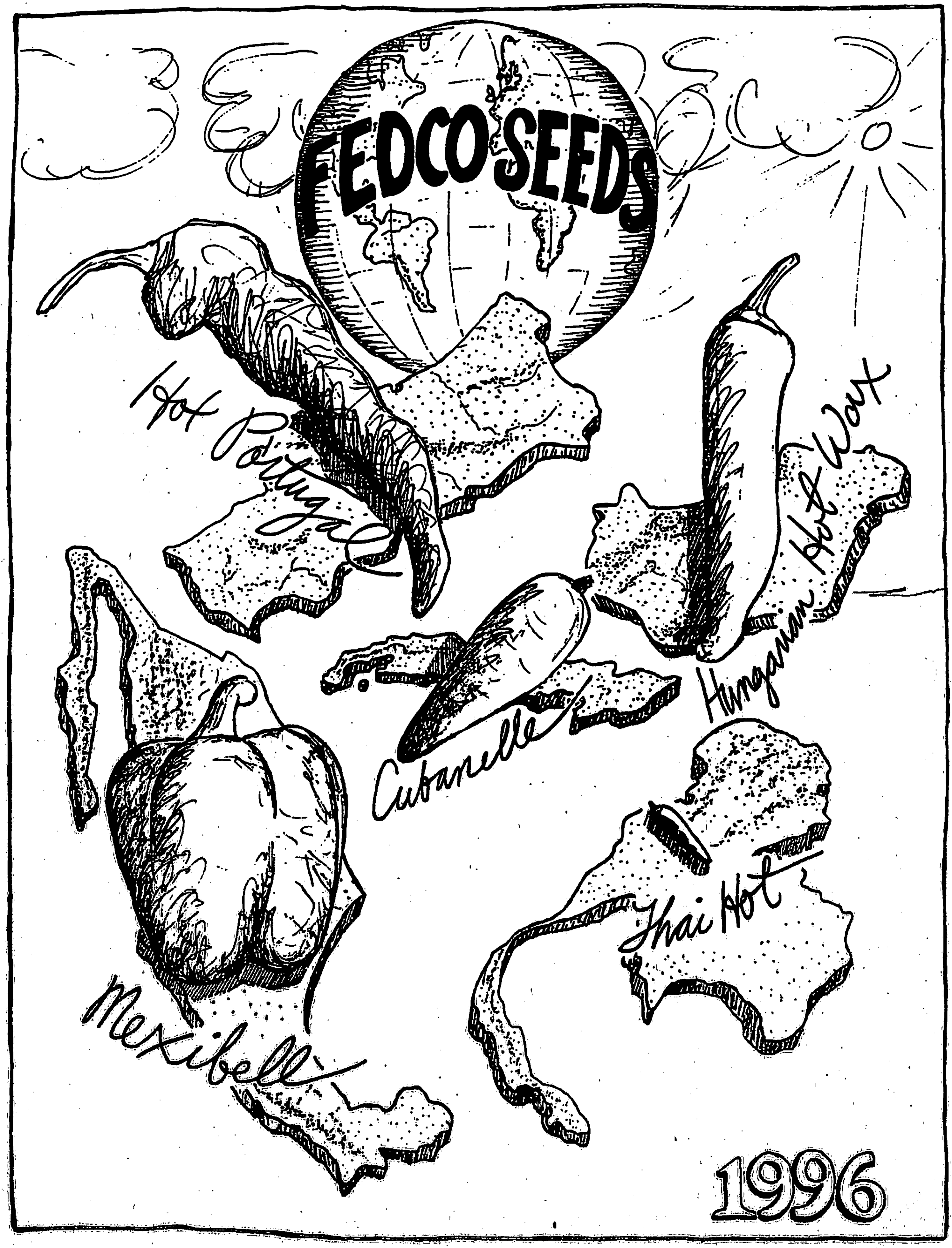

FEDCO SEEDS
Hot Portugal
Hungarian Hot Wax
Cubanelle
Thai Hot
Mexibell
1996

FEDCO SEEDS

Co-op Seed Packers

Welcome!

Welcome to our 18th annual garden seed-order! Our 1996 catalog focuses on our network of seed producers and trialers, which includes more than a half dozen of our staff as well as several dozen of our most serious gardening customers and commercial growers.

What makes a great trialer?

- Consummate skill at growing one's specialty crop(s). Of course, even master gardeners occasionally experience failure in droughty seasons like 1995, but our trialers must be successful in most trials most years.
- An observer's eye for catching the nuances of plant growth habit, the subtleties of shape and color, and noticing sometimes minute differences between similar varieties.
- Discerning taste buds. Don't laugh—differentiating among 36 different carrot varieties in one taste test can be a real challenge!
- Good organizational skills to keep separate varieties straight. A good marking system to distinguish them in the garden and good record-keeping (we provide forms as an aide) to capture the essential information on paper because no one can keep it all in his or her head!
- A love of gardens and plants, a sense of excitement when beholding something new and wondrous, and the patience to persevere through occasional crop failures and those trials that don't reveal any real surprises.

A great seed grower must have all of the above plus competence at the techniques needed for gathering seed for her or his chosen crop and the exquisite sense of timing when to sow and when to reap to take advantage of New England's narrow window of opportunity.

When you call us from April through December and get the answering message, more likely than not we are working and playing in our gardens and fields, gaining vital hands-on varietal and cultural information which we pass on to you each year in our catalogs.

Trials, but not Tribulations

Variety trials are long treasure hunts. Year by year we build our information base, discerning patterns in cultivars, types and sub-types, and individual suppliers. Often we must examine many varieties before we find one which appears promising. We watch it grow, hoping it will still look good right through maturation. Even, then, appearances can be deceiving and taste must be the ultimate arbiter as to whether we will include it in our catalog. Occasionally, we find a variety unprepossessing in growth or appearance which wins us with its outstanding flavor. When that princely pea, magnificent melon or luscious lettuce shows up (sometimes after we've spent years of sifting and waiting), we pulsate with the thrill of found treasure. If that variety is an old one that was almost forgotten, we take particular pride in being among the first avid seekers to rediscover it.

But our work is still not done. Before we can again make it widely available, our purchaser Nikos Kavanya must find a commercial supplier. Failing that, we begin the sometimes lengthy and arduous work of finding a suitable seed grower, multiplying the inital supply of seed, and producing a viable seed crop of sufficient quantity to sell. Good trials work carried to full fruition is a noble endeavor which brings added aesthetic and culinary enjoyment to many people, while expanding our rural economic base and keeping culture in agriculture.

Nearly one third of our new selections for 1996 are open-pollinated heirloom varieties grown under our auspices. Another third are new hybrid varieties developed by some of the best breeders in the world. The remaining third are mostly old standby vegetables and flowers which fill gaps in our selection.

Our decision last year to move cover crops, fertilizers and garden accessories out of our seed warehouse has given our seed division the needed space to continue broadening our selection each year. Fedco pledges to rediscover the best of the old varieties, unearth the best of the new, and make them all available at the fairest prices in the trade.

Searching for that Lost Bag of Bones?

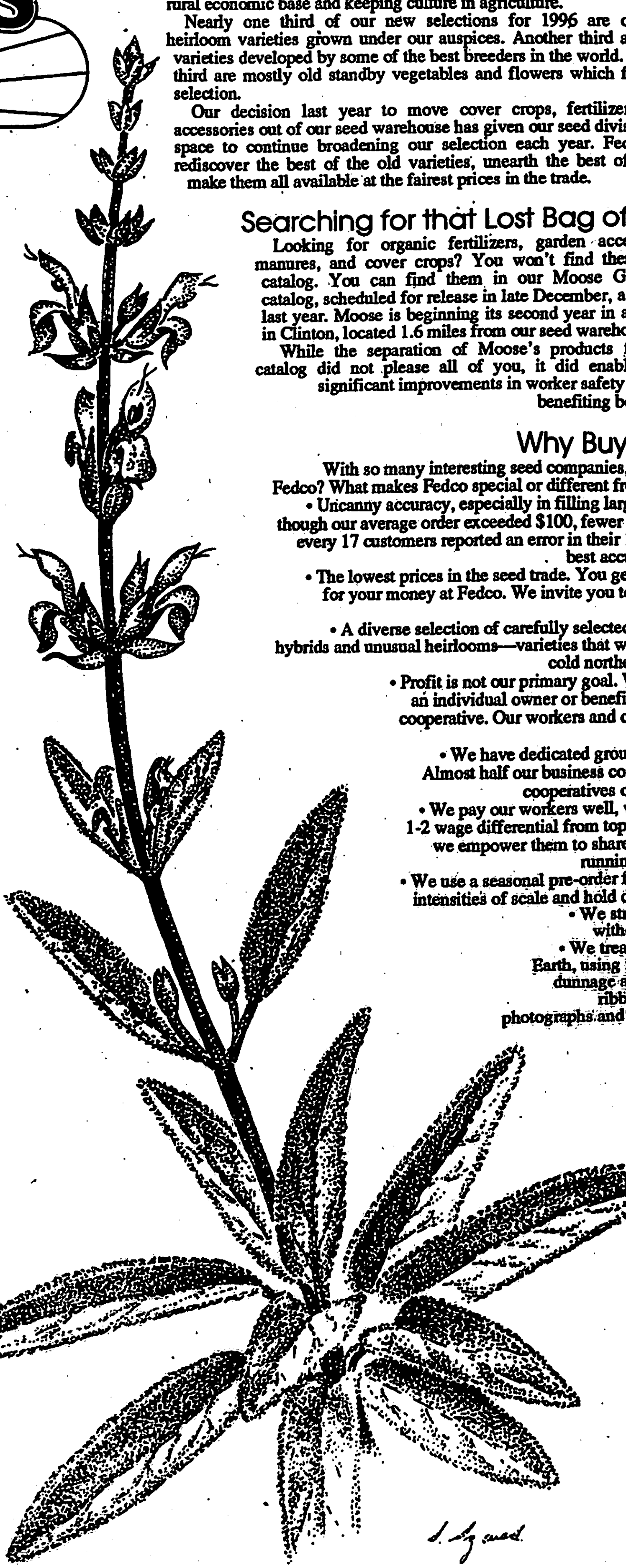
Looking for organic fertilizers, garden accessories, green manures, and cover crops? You won't find them in our seed catalog. You can find them in our Moose Growers Supply catalog, scheduled for release in late December, a little later than last year. Moose is beginning its second year in a rented facility in Clinton, located 1.6 miles from our seed warehouse.

While the separation of Moose's products from our seed catalog did not please all of you, it did enable us to make significant improvements in worker safety and efficiency, benefiting both operations.

Why Buy Fedco?

With so many interesting seed companies, why patronize Fedco? What makes Fedco special or different from the others?

- Uncanny accuracy, especially in filling large orders. Even though our average order exceeded $100, fewer than one out of every 17 customers reported an error in their 1995 order, our best accuracy rate ever.
- The lowest prices in the seed trade. You get the most seed for your money at Fedco. We invite you to compare with anyone.
- A diverse selection of carefully selected high-powered hybrids and unusual heirlooms—varieties that will thrive in our cold northeastern climate.
- Profit is not our primary goal. We do not have an individual owner or beneficiary. We are a cooperative. Our workers and customers share in our profits.
- We have dedicated group coordinators. Almost half our business comes from other cooperatives or group orders.
- We pay our workers well, with a very low 1-2 wage differential from top to bottom, and we empower them to share in the work of running our business.
- We use a seasonal pre-order format to create intensities of scale and hold down overhead.
- We strive for honesty without much hype.
- We tread lightly on the Earth, using recycled boxes, dunnage and even printer ribbons, eschewing photographs and glossy paper in our catalog.



About Cooperation

Cooperation works for us. We are one of the few seed companies in the United States organized as a cooperative. Consumers own 60% of the cooperative and worker members 40%. Consumers and worker members share proportionately in the cooperative's profits through our annual patronage dividends.

Our cooperative structure gives workers a real voice in running the company and a real stake in its success. Cooperation has enabled us to attract and retain talented workers. Year after year our staff turnover is at or near zero.

You can make cooperation work for you, too, by creating group orders which can take advantage of our substantial volume discounts. It is easy to form a group: Get together with friends, neighbors, co-workers or other members of your club, grange, chapter, church or coop. Distribute catalogs to interested members as soon as you can. We'd be happy to send you additional catalogs or order forms if you need them. Choose someone to collate your members' orders into one master order which you send to us. Use the volume discounts as a fundraiser or pass them on to those who do the work on the order. Schedule a work party for after the seeds arrive to break down your group order into individual orders. For our pamphlet with more detailed "Information for Group Coordinators" send a SASE.

Services for Group Orders In 1996 we offer several special services for large group orders. 1) We keep all orders over $300 separated by sections when we pull and package them. 2) If you want to coordinate a large group order but don't want to collate and later break down your individual orders, you can opt to allow us to pull and package your individual orders separately and make one shipment to you in exchange for 7% of your discount. Please call the office for more information.

Individual Orders Are Welcome, Too! You don't have to be a member of a group or cooperative to order from us. Individual orders are welcome and comprise about half of our 3,000 orders annually. We eliminated our order minimum in 1994 and inserted a special short order form on the inside back cover for purchasing twelve items or less. For your added convenience, we now include prices in our catalog.

The Evolution of Fedco Seeds

CR Lawn began Fedco Seeds with the food cooperative distribution network already in place and the idea that Fedco could buy seeds in bulk, repackage them, and offer them at substantial discounts. That first year we bought all 80 varieties from Johnny's Selected Seeds and distributed 24,000 packets to MOFGA chapters and co-ops in Maine and Massachusetts. The idea worked as well in practice as it had looked in theory, and we were on our way!

As we have grown over the years we have evolved to meet customer needs. Today we no longer purchase our seeds from Johnny's. Instead, we deal with scores of suppliers from all over the world, ranging from multinationals such as Sandoz, the Swiss pharmaceutical giant which is also the world's second largest seed company, to individual growers who are maintaining small collections or even single heirloom varieties. We literally search the world to find the best varieties at the best prices.

We have become much more than a mere repacker of seeds. We devote many hundreds of hours annually to research. In Nikos Kavanya's extensive variety trials program, skilled staffers and customers evaluate hundreds of cultivars at multiple sites.

Our Own Seed Crops Several years ago we began cooperating with Maine seedspeople interested in growing commercial seed crops of varieties specially adapted to this climate, focusing on traditional regional favorites such as dried beans, and heirloom varieties not available from commercial channels. This program first bore fruit in 1991 when we successfully grew seed for 19 varieties. We have extended it to other states and now offer a diverse selection of melons and squash, lettuce, hot peppers and poppies as well as beans and tomatoes rarely found in other seed catalogs. Each summer in our trials we are continuing to identify outstanding heirloom varieties, selecting the best for seed multiplication, and making plans to introduce them in future catalogs. We will continue to do our part to ensure that the best heirlooms are reintroduced into commerce.

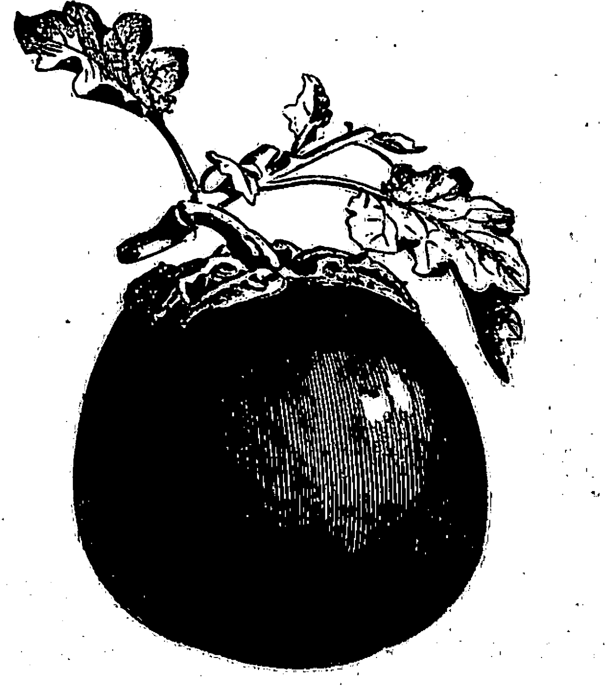
Nevertheless, like most other retail seed companies, we grow only a small percentage of the seed that we sell. Because our Maine climate is not ideal for raising commercial quantities of seed for most varieties, we often purchase quality seed grown in optimum climatic conditions by expert seedspeople in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California and other western states, or imported from Japan, France, Holland, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland or Italy. In particular, many hybrid varieties come from a few dozen large wholesalers with sophisticated breeding programs and unrivalled expertise in their specialties. Whatever their geographic origin, all of our offerings have been tested in our trials program for high performance in our cold New England climate.

Some folks mistakenly believe that we sell only organic seed. In fact, only a few of our seed crops are organically grown, and these are clearly noted in the catalog. Commercial quantities of organic seed are still difficult to find. Send us a SASE for a list of some other retail sources of organic seed.

However, all of our seeds are untreated. You will never get a fungicide-treated seed from Fedco.

New Varieties for 1996

Jade: Will never jade your palate!
Monos Negros: The tortoise beats the hare, but not this monkey!
Spring Snow: An August blizzard far more welcome than April's last!
Double Gem: Second early bicolor sweet corn!
Lancelot: Knight in shining kernels!
Kandy King: Flavor keeps it on the throne!
Amira: Much to admire in Amira!
Cream of Saskatchewan: White watermelon? You bet!
Fastbreak: No Magic, no Bird, just a fantastic melon!
French Orange: Oh, that Charentais aroma and flavor!
Cucuzzi: Wear this gourd across your shoulders!
Costata Romanesca: All Zucchinis are not created equal!
Trickster: All treats, no tricks!
Lady Godiva: Not a hull of a lot of work to harvest these seeds!
Howden: Say Howden you do to the best Jack O'Lanterns!
Scorzonera: Let your garden world be your oyster!
Sweet Valentine: Lettuce fit for a sweetheart!
Red Deer Tongue: Hopefully the only deer tongues in your garden!
Cracoviensis: Where the red meets the green!
Slobolt: Give me the lettuce with the slow growth!
Par-Cel: The hardiness of parsley with the taste of celery!
Toraziroh: This green will pass mustard!
Rushmore: Snow white, unlike our recent presidents!
Pingtung Long: Eleven inch Chinese eggplants!
Imperial Star: Welcome the globe artichoke to northeast gardens!
Goldie: The best orange heirloom tomato!
Ruby Gold: This heirloom's a real gem!
Black Prince: If Krim makes you grim, Prince won't make you wince!
Green Zebra: Now you can bring the zoo to your very own garden!
White Potato Leaf: An adventure in tomato diversity!
Purple Beauty: Pick a peck of purple peppers!
Habanero: The bull goose looney of hot peppers!
Garden Salsa: Will leave salsified customers!
Ancho 101: For superb chiles, fresh or dried!
Portos: On the crest of yellow pepper quality!
Blessed Thistle: Cnicus is a hairy plant!
Salmon Compliment: This aster will never be a dis-aster!
Tanagra: A lovely lavatera!
Mignonette: A most darling fragrance!
Ziar: Breadseed poppies with huge seedheads and no vents!
Sunspot: Now grow sunflowers indoors in pots!
Vanilla Ice: Luscious white blossoms on a stalk!
Sundial Mix: Portulacas of distinction!
Sundial Peppermint: Last a lot longer than peppermint candy!
Selma Suns: Glorious Gloriosa replacement!
Purple Wave: Cover your ground with a sea of purple!
Exotic Love-in-a-Mist: Pods from the gods!
Gabriele Strawflower: An arranger's star variety!
Calico Corn: Pop art or popcorn—your choice!
Red Broom Corn: Will sweep you away!
Foxtail Millet: Good chaser for Hare's Tail!
Silver Tip Wheat: No gloom with these glumes!
Butterfly Weed: A monarch of a selection!
Foxy Mix: Those foxy Fedco selectors did it again!



Customer Service and Information

For all inquiries, call our office at 207-873-7333 (873-SEED).

Call us Monday-Friday, 9-12am, 1-6pm, January-March.

We are also available 9-12am only in April, and sporadically the rest of the year.

We will answer your questions or transfer you to someone who can. Please do not call our warehouses.

You can help us to reduce our error rate and ensure that you get the seeds you want the first time. Please double-check your order to make sure that the line on which you marked each amount ordered corresponds with each item number which you circled.

Discrepancies between these markings are a big source of error. Some folks mark the place they meant to and circle an adjacent number; others circle the item number they want and mark on the wrong line. Either way, we have to guess, and sometimes we guess wrong.

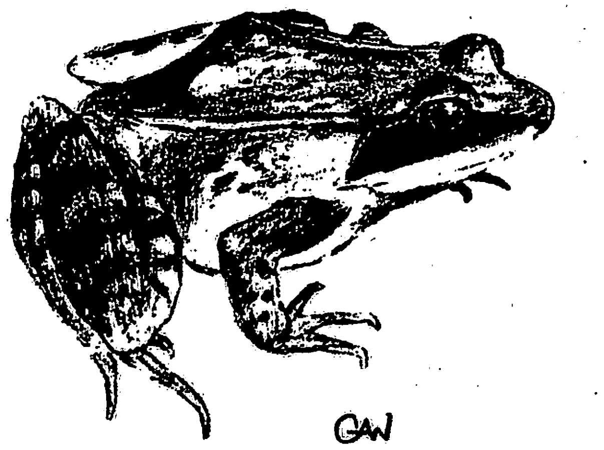
Although we strive for perfection, since we are human we will always make a few mistakes. If you get a few packets of the wrong seeds, or are missing a few packets, please mail us the correction form which comes with your shipment. If you are missing a major piece of your order, get someone else's order, or receive a box with spilled or broken items, please call the office.

Our Common Sense Service

Toll-free order number! Fax order! 24-hour hotline! All major credit cards! Same day order fulfillment! No money down! Special rush service! Your mailboxes, like ours, are probably stuffed with catalogs which offer all this and more. Faster, faster, faster! Instant gratification! Today you're constantly invited to get what you want NOW! But there's a catch! Checked out the prices in those catalogs lately? All that service costs. There's no free lunch.

We invite you to ponder. Is getting your order filled in two days really three times as good as getting it in six? Is it worth double the price for the same goods?

The conventional wisdom these days holds that service is king, and damn the expense. We at Fedco have a little bit different philosophy. We seek to balance the costs of each service with the benefits so we can offer the most value to the most people. We apply a common sense test to every potential operational change to make sure that the result will be worth it to you. That's why we don't have credit card and fax orders, 24-hour hotlines, receptionists sitting by the phone, and other accoutrements of the fast lane. We just don't think they're worth the extra expense. We won't rush, but we will fill your order accurately, and deliver the best value we know how. At a time when prices continue to rise but most people's incomes can't seem to keep pace, we think that's just common sense.



How You Can Get More Involved

Tell us how our varieties performed for you. Did you especially like something? Was something disappointing? Let us know. Tell us why. Please include the specific variety and lot number. The more details you furnish, the more we can learn.

Suggest new varieties for us to carry. Be these heirlooms which have been rediscovered, new varieties from modern breeding programs, or old standbys we've overlooked, your suggestions always interest us. The more specific your opinion, the more useful to us. And please tell us whose seed you've been using.

Join our network of trial gardeners. We are interested only in experienced successful gardeners with good record-keeping skills. We discourage organic purists because often trial samples have been fungicide-treated by the supplier. For 1996 we are especially seeking trialers of greenhouse tomatoes and cucumbers, and of supersweet corn.

Send us seed of an heirloom variety which you think has commercial potential. We will grow it out to see if we agree. Our bean King of the Early is the result of this type of collaboration. Vegetable varieties must ripen quality fruit or seed pods in our short growing season, with outstanding taste and/or appearance. We especially welcome samples of neglected herbs or flowers such as single hollyhocks and old-fashioned scented sweet peas.

Fedco Seeds guarantees that all items we offer are fully satisfactory. If you are dissatisfied for any reason, we will either replace the item or refund the purchase price.

Limitation of Liability

Because good results depend upon weather, soil and cultural practices over which we have no control, we limit our liability in all instances to the purchase price of the seeds, as is customary in the seed trade. The liability of Fedco Seeds for breach of warranty, or any loss or damages arising out of the purchase or use of our products, including loss or damages resulting from any negligence whatsoever on our part, or strict liability in tort, shall be limited to the purchase price. By acceptance of the merchandise, the buyer acknowledges that the limitations and disclaimers herein described are conditions of sale, and that they constitute the entire agreement between the parties regarding any warranty or liability.

Claims for defects in Fedco Seeds' products should be presented to Fedco Seeds as soon as possible after discovery. Failure to assert claims within 30 days after discovery renders this warranty null and void.

Our Mailing List

We realize many people are concerned about the proliferation of junk mail, and we do not want to be a part of the problem. If we are sending you too many catalogs, let us know so we can save both trees and money.

From time to time we receive requests for parts or all of our mailing list. We never give out such information without your prior permission and we never give out the names of people who've asked for our catalog but have not yet ordered from us.

We commonly receive requests from individuals seeking other folks or established coops with whom to order. Less frequently, like-minded organizations ask us to trade names.

On the front of the order form is a place for you to indicate when, if ever, we have your permission to give out your name. Please tell us if we can give your name to other businesses or organizations, and/or to individuals seeking to form an ordering group or coop.

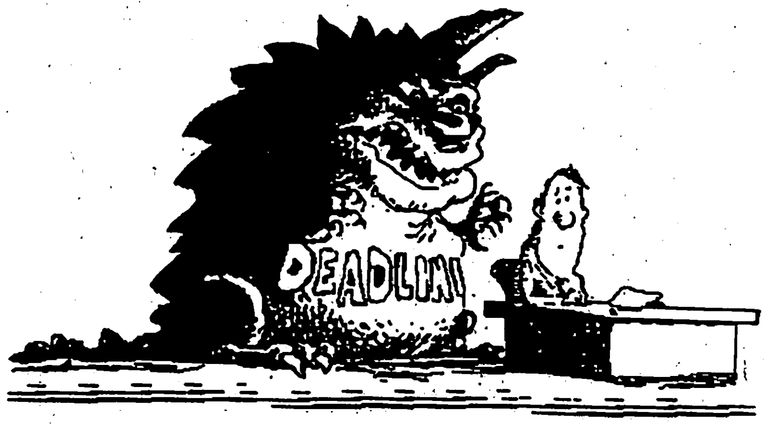
Seeds People

Coordinators: Joann Clark, Gene Frey
Finance and Inventory Control: CR Lawn
Office Crew: Bianca St. Louis, Susan Shipman
Packing and Receiving: Roberta Bunker
Purchasing and Research: Nikos Kavanya
Shipping: Alison LaCourse
Warehouse Crew: John Bunker, Martie Crone, Carol Doyle, Paul LaCourse, Tom Levesque, Bernice Nadler, George Stewart, Bennett Verbeck-Steward

Order	Goods offered	Coordinators	Forms available	Discount deadline	Ordering deadline	Shipments
Moose Growers Supply	seed potatoes, onion sets soil amendments, cover crops, garden tools & supplies	Alison LaCourse David Shipman Adam Tomash	December	February 16	mid March mid May	early April (potatoes) mid January-late May
Fedco Bulbs	spring bulbs: peonies, lilies, glads, perennials fall bulbs: tulips, narcissus, crocus, hyacinth, iris, amaryllis, seed garlic	Joann Clark Gene Frey	January June	early March mid August	early March late August	mid April late Sept-early October
Fedco Trees	fruit trees, berry bushes, ornamental shrubs, grapes, conifers, nut & shade trees	John Bunker Roberta Bunker	October	December 1	April 1	late April
Fedco Seeds	vegetable, flower & herb seeds, books	Joann Clark Gene Frey	November	February 16	Mar. 22	mid January-late March

How to Order

All orders must be mailed to us on one of our 1996 order forms. Orderers of 12 items or fewer may use the simple order blank on the inside back cover. All other orderers please use the full order form. Please, no lists. All orders must be accompanied by a check or money order. We do not accept food stamps or credit cards. All orders must reach us by Fri. Mar. 22.



Deadlines

Orders received by:	qualify for:
Fri. Jan. 19	Early pickup.
Fri. Feb. 16	Volume discounts; regular March pickup.
Fri. Mar. 22	Final order deadline.

Why deadlines?

We reward large orders meeting our deadline with discounts because they help us determine with some precision the amount of seed we will need to fill the entire year's order and enable us to make additional purchases quickly before seed stocks run out.

Please don't procrastinate. We handle orders by the date they're received, not the date they're postmarked, and the postal service can be quite slow. Here are last recommended days to mail your order to reach here by Friday:

049 zip	mail by Thursday
elsewhere in Maine	mail by Wednesday
New England, NY	mail by Tuesday
outside NE, NY	mail by Monday

Shipping & Handling Charges

Orders under $50 must pay $5 for handling and shipping. We pay for shipping on all other orders (except to Alaska and Hawaii; please pay 15% extra). Sorry, we can't ship to Canada. We welcome our neighbors in New Brunswick and Quebec to come pick up.

Discounts

All discounts are figured from the subtotal on page 1 of your order sheet.

Volume discounts: Orders received by Fri. Feb. 16 qualify.

Orders over $100 deduct 10%
Orders over $200 deduct 15%
Orders over $300 deduct 20%
Orders over $600 deduct 22%
Orders over $1000 deduct 24%

Pickup discount of 10%: Orders must be picked up in our warehouse at one of the designated pickup times (see Delivery Options for details).

Organic grower discount: Members of MOFGA, NOFA or a comparable organic growers organization receive a 1% discount regardless of ordering date. You may join MOFGA or NOFA with your seed order. See page 7, Resources, for dues.

Sales tax

Maine residents pay 6% on flower seed and books. These items are highlighted on the totals page of the order sheet. **Please do not charge yourself sales tax on vegetable and herb seed.** Maine farms and retailers: Send us your state resale ID number.

There is no sales tax on anything for folks outside of Maine.

Bulk Orders

If you wish a larger quantity of any item than listed in the catalog, please call for a quote.

List these items on a separate sheet of paper or on the lilac bulk order form; do not include them in the section totals. Instead, put the total for your bulk items on the line labeled "Bulk Orders" in the totals block on page 1 of the order sheet.

Delivery options

On your order form, please designate how you want to get your seeds. The choices are as follows:

UPS We pull and ship orders as they are received. We process orders according to their arrival date, not their postmark date. Sorry, we do not have a special rush service. If you'd like us to hold your order for a later shipping date, please attach a note to your order form.

UPS Shipping schedule

We begin shipping the week ending Fri. Jan. 12.

Orders received by:	We will ship:
Fri. Feb. 2	within two weeks of receipt. (except orders received in December; shipping begins Jan 12)
Sat. Feb. 2-Fri. Feb. 23	within three weeks of receipt.
Sat. Feb. 24-Fri. Mar. 22	within two weeks of receipt.

Please allow an additional week for mailing and shipping time.

Our aim is to meet or beat our shipping schedule. Early and late orders receive the fastest service, often going out within a week of receipt. Orders received during peak season in mid-late February go out the slowest. Later orders run a greater risk of out-of-stocks where seed crops come in short or where demand exceeds our estimates.

Many orders, especially early ones, will require one or more additional shipments because not all items will be in stock at the time of the first shipment. We will send invoices with the first shipment. We will make payment adjustments, including refunds for items still missing, in the final shipment. We will send all final shipments by Fri. Mar. 29.

PICKUP You come to our warehouse in Clinton. We'll send a postcard reminder with directions to those planning to come. The warehouse is easy to find, only one mile from I-95 exit 37.

Early pickup You pick up your order Thurs. or Fri. Feb. 1-2 from 9:00am-4:30pm. Sorry, the warehouse is not open for pickups any other days in February. We must have your order in hand by Fri. Jan. 19. We estimate that we will have 85-90% of your order ready at early pickup. We will hold your invoice until March when you have the option of returning for the rest of your order or having us ship it to you.

Regular pickup You may pick up your order Wed-Fri. Mar. 6-8 and Mon.-Fri. Mar. 11-15 from 9:00am-4:30pm. No weekend pickups. We must have your order in hand by Fri. Feb. 16.

Late pickup for orders received after Feb. 16. You may pick up during the Moose pickup, Thurs-Fri, Apr. 11-12 or at the Fedco Tree Sale, Fri-Sat, Apr. 26-27. Late orders will not be available for pickup in March.

TRUCK Certain Vermont orders are trucked by Michael Gulick during February and March. Contact Michael at (802) 525-3800 by January 15 to arrange this service.

OTHER We will use parcel post only if you specifically request it or if your address is insufficient for UPS to find you. Parcel post is much slower and far riskier than UPS.

Repeat Orders

A number of our customers place multiple orders each year. Whatever the reason—members turning in orders to their co-op late, or items being overlooked and not ordered—we treat your second order as a separate order the same as any other order. We do not combine it with an earlier order.

You must add handling charge of $5 if the second order is under $50, regardless of the size of your original purchase.

Repeat orders over $50 continue to qualify for the same volume discount as the first order, regardless of later ordering date, provided they are to be sent to the same address.

Baa! (ckorders)

Backorders are backbreakers. Our backorder rate is still too high. We know that you desire your seeds shipped promptly, preferably all at once with no backorders at all.

Although we continue to strive to reduce backorders, we know that we will never be able to eliminate them completely. Why? Because our products are alive, because many varieties have only one or two suppliers, and because we have been shipping orders more promptly.

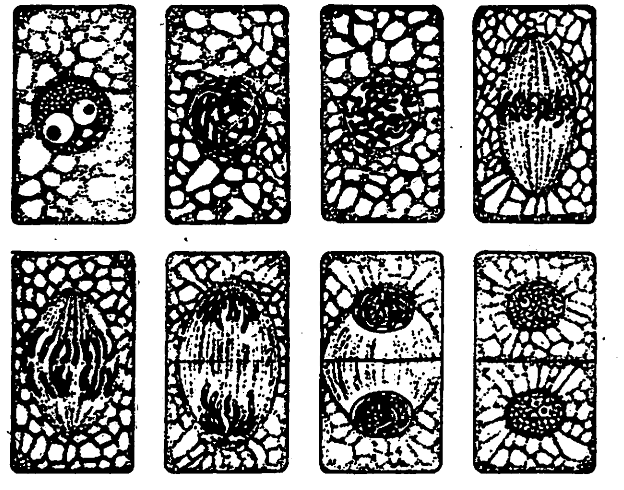
The earlier we ship your order, the more likely one or more items will arrive too late to make the initial shipment. Most UPS orders can expect to receive one or more backorder shipments.

We ship backordered items that need an indoor start as soon as possible after arrival. We hold other backorder items until we have a sufficient quantity to ship to a whole cycle of orders. Compared to customized service of one packet at a time, we save time and money, reduce the number of shipments and cut our turnaround time on first shipments for all orders. Please be patient; your direct-seeded backorder items will probably arrive several weeks or more after your first shipment.

We promise to ship all backorders by Fri. Mar. 29. If you are still missing anything by Apr. 8 and have not received a refund, please get in touch with us ASAP.

Do You Know Where Your Seed Comes From?

Probably not, unless you save your own. The following is the second part of a two-part series on the structure of the worldwide seed trade which originated from my talks at Common Ground Fair. Part I appeared in our 1995 seed catalog, pp. 6-7, and is available by sending us a SASE. It addressed the planned obsolescence of raw untreated seed and open-pollinated seed by the diminishing handful of multinational corporations who control the worldwide seed industry.



The trade continues to consolidate into fewer and fewer behemoths. At the end of September, Empresas la Moderna (ELM) completed the combination of Asgrow/Petoseed/Royal Sluis companies. Asgrow had been owned by Upjohn, Peto part of the George J. Ball group which includes W. Atlee Burpee Co, Denholm Seeds, Vaughn Seeds and Pan-American Seed Co. Huge would be understating the size of the resulting juggernaut. In late June, Monsanto Co. announced its intention to purchase a 49.9% equity interest in debt-ridden Calgene, Inc., a move designed to shore up one of biotechnology's giants with a badly needed capital infusion, and one with profound implications for the future of genetically altered products.

Mergermania is not restricted to the mighty. Some small companies are not what they seem to be. Did you know that specialty houses Seymour's Selected Seeds (English cottage garden favorites), Totally Tomatoes (all tomatoes & peppers), and Vermont Bean Seed Co. are all part of the R.H. Shumway operation? That Cook's Garden sold its business including its entire order fulfillment operation to Park Seeds in South Carolina, and has moved its trial facilities to Burlington, Vermont, to be integrated with the Gardener's Supply research gardens?[1]

Seed savers took another blow on Oct. 6, 1994, when President Clinton signed into law congressionally approved amendments to the 1970 Plant Variety Protection Act (plant patenting law) completely eliminating a farmer's right to sell any extra seed of a protected variety to other farmers or gardeners or even to offer them through such organizations as the Seed Savers Exchange.

Welcome to the biotechnology age, ready or not! The next development in value-added seed products has burst upon us. Breakthroughs in recombinant DNA technology are enabling breeders to transfer single-gene traits like resistances to pests, diseases and herbicides.

Several years ago Mycogen's bioinsecticides MVP and M-Track, which control caterpillars and the Colorado Potato Beetle, became the first genetically engineered products to hit the market.[2] The first transgenic plant variety, the infamous Flavr Savr Tomato, went on sale under the brand name MacGregor's in 730 grocery stores late in 1994.[3] Flavr Savr was created to resist softening for a longer shelf life. Critics charged that it had no flavor to savor. Calgene, its developer, maintained complete control over all the phases of its production, packaging and marketing and is said to have spent more than $95 million on its development.[4]

A transgenic yellow crookneck squash developed by Asgrow to be resistant to zucchini yellow mosaic virus and watermelon mosaic virus 2 won approval from the USDA in Dec, 1994, and is now on the market as Freedom II.[5]

These represent only the beginning: The biotechnology pipeline is about to burst wide open. Corn borer resistant hybrids being developed independently by Ciba Seeds and Mycogen Plant Sciences will be available for the 1996 planting season. These field corns contain a gene from *Bacillus thuringiensis (B.t.)* which causes the plant to produce a protein that controls the borers.[6] Pioneer Hy-Bred International, Northrup King, DeKalb and others won't be far behind Ciba and Mycogen. The technology will soon extend from field corn varieties into sweet corns.

Monsanto has developed potatoes incorporating the gene for the *B.t.* protein endotoxin rendering them resistant to the Colorado Beetle. These "New Leaf" poatoes have won conditional approval for use in Maine in 1996[7] and unconditional approval in at least 30 other states. Monsanto is also working on virus-resistant and high-starch potatoes.

Insect-resistant *B.t.* cotton, "Roundup Ready" soybeans, canola and cotton (incorporating tolerance to the herbicide glyphosate, which goes under the trade name Roundup) are being introduced now or within the next two years. Herbicide-tolerant sugar beets and vegetables are also on the way.

In the years ahead biotechnology will be applied to develop crops to specific end uses such as the production of specialty vegetable oils and starches and vegetable products with modified nutritional characteristics.

In a recent study of agricultural biotechnology for Decision Resources, Inc., the Bowditch group predicted that "a substantial proportion of all seed products will be genetically engineered by the year 2005."[8] North America is targeted to be the first major market for these transgenic crops because we have both the large market and lax regulatory environment to justify the research investment needed to develop transgenics.[9]

Many upcoming developments from genetic engineering sound promising. Strawberry varieties with increased tolerance to freezing and thawing,[10] green peas with delayed conversion of sugar to starch after picking, bell peppers with improved sweetness[11] as well as corn with biological resistance to the European corn borer which could reduce dependence on insecticides all are potentially appealing.

Unfortunately, the majority of biotechnology research has so far been concentrated on the development of resistance to chemicals, such as Monsanto's work with their herbicide Roundup. The world's eight largest pesticide companies have all initiated herbicide-tolerant plant research, as have most of the major seed conglomerates.[12] Legitimate concerns have been expressed about who is setting the priority for this research. Some nutritionists worry that plant geneticists might engineer crops which improve processing or yield at the expense of taste and nutrition.[13] Some scientists fear that the genes which give transgenic plants their resistances to diseases, insects and herbicides could eventually be transferred into weeds through cross-pollination. Such weeds could have survival advantages that made them invasive.[14]

Even appealing applications of biotechnology could have ominous implications as illustrated by the dilemma about the use of *B.t.* As early as 1991, before genetically engineered *B.t.* was on the market, the National Audubon Society sponsored a *B.t.* resistance workshop in Washington, D.C. in response to field reports that diamondback moths were beginning to develop resistance to *B.t.*, especially where growers applied frequent high doses.[15] Several attendees at the Maine Pesticides Board hearings warned that the transgenic "New Leaf" potato could hasten the development of *B.t.*-resistant Colorado potato beetles. Both the Union of Concerned Scientists and the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides have expressed concern that widespread adoption of *B.t.* crops will accelerate the development of resistance, because persistent and uniform exposure of the target pest to the toxin creates a strong selective pressure to develop resistance.[16] In Maine, farmers are being urged to grow non-engineered potatoes in refuge strips alongside the "New Leaf" potatoes to slow the evolution of resistance.

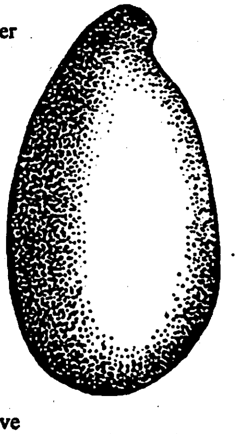
Moreover, biotechnology carries huge research and development costs which will have to be recouped in high seed prices for the new varieties. As Nicholas Lindholm points out, "Anywhere from a few to a dozen separate intellectual property rights must be legally accessed when working with bioengineering and transgenic seed technology, and each of those rights may be owned or controlled by different companies or individuals."[17] The seed industry has used increasingly complex legal mechanisms to develop more and more restrictive intellectual property rights. The price of an increasingly competitive technology-driven industry is an astronomical increase in the cost of developing and marketing the new transgenic varieties. For example, Pioneer Hy-Bred International invested more than $115 million in research in 1994.[18]

The high costs of the technology are the driving forces behind many of the mergers and acquisitions. In 1989, Bill Teweles of L. William Teweles & Co, a Wisconsin-based seed and plant science group which specializes in mergers and acquisitions, predicted continued consolidation of the international seed industry at an increasingly rapid rate. His beliefs that by the year 2000, 10-20 multinational seed and plant biotechnology companies would dominate the most profitable segments of the global seed trade[19] and that consolidations would also occur among small, regional multi-crop seed companies as well as among larger corporations have already been borne out.

The high costs of genetic plant technology have also caused more and more varietal research to be privatized among companies. Meanwhile, university plant breeding programs that contributed so vitally to new varietal developments for most of this century are getting less and less funding and falling into desuetude.

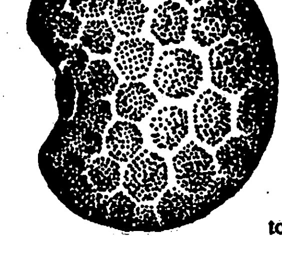
Several years ago John Sorensen, research director of vegetable seeds for Asgrow, predicted that the increased competitiveness and increased need for return on investment would reduce the amount of plant material and technology being exchanged and contribute to a generally more secretive environment which will probably raise the costs of seed.

Can small companies like ours survive or thrive in such a harsh environment? Large wholesalers have typically been uninterested in small-scale retailing; indeed the rise of alternative seed companies has been a contrapuntal trend to consolidation of the bigger companies. Moreover, cooperation between small seed companies and heirloom seed savers in the production of seed crops is inevitable and has already begun. Small companies like ours have been very responsive to the renewed interest in heirloom varieties and seed saving. In some ways we are better positioned to respond to new trends in the marketplace than larger retailers hindered by their own corporate bureaucracies and pro-hybrid biases. If we can rebuild a base of regional specialty varieties, we can over time become less dependent upon the multinational behemoths, and ensure ourselves an enduring, if limited, niche in the market. The trend toward heirlooms disturbs giants like Petoseed, which conducts an aggressive marketing campaign trumpeting the virtues of hybrids while denigrating open-pollinated varieties. Recently Peto's Jim Waltrip attempted a ludicrous comparison of heirloom tomato Brandywine with recent AAS winner Big Beef, finding Beef the clear winner in all categories except taste (a merely minor consideration, of course!). We sell both. These tomatoes are very dissimilar and one could never replace the other.



Will companies like Fedco ever sell transgenic varieties? That depends upon what kind of varieties are developed at what price, and whether you, our customers, will want them. Would you be able to resist a sweet corn variety which could fix nitrogen or one which has built-in molecular resistance to the corn earworm? For now, the burden of proof is on the biotechnologists to justify the benefits and costs of their products.

Many of us are concerned that seed savers have fewer and fewer rights. In some European countries, a system of national listings regulates what varieties can or cannot be sold. If it isn't on the list, it is illegal to sell. Fortunately, conditions are not yet that restrictive in America. If we are to retain our inalienable right to grow whatever seeds we wish, what is to be done?



1) Although at first glance, an individual would appear to be powerless against the technological juggernaut, take heart from the inspiring story of Seed Savers Exchange founder Kent Whealy. Whealy and his friends within a few short years built a powerful organization aimed at nothing less than the restoration of a localized agri-culture. A few dedicated individuals with a bright idea can still change the whole course of history. 2) Familiarize yourself with the issues and develop your own points of view. The bibliography offers a good place to start. 3) Join the Maine Seed Savers network or the Seed Savers Exchange or both and adopt a few heirloom varieties if you are so inclined. If you are serious about seed saving the book Seed to Seed by Suzanne Ashworth (#2377) is the best resource available. 4) Patronize small alternative seed companies who offer the best of the old as well as the new. See page 6 of the 1994 Fedco Seeds catalog for a partial listing, or write us. As breeder Tim Peters states in his catalog, "Keep in mind that the dollars you spend today are casting a vote on what seeds, what companies and what philosophies will exist tomorrow."[20] 5) If you decide that you have serious misgivings about eating genetically engineered foods, you might want to support Jeremy Rifkin's Foundation on Economic Trends which has launched a campaign to press for labeling of all such foods that reach the marketplace. 6) Write your Congresspeople and other politicians if you have opinions on such issues as seed patenting, funding for university varietal research, regulation of biotechnology, etc. 7) Continue to keep your hands in the dirt and your mind fertile.

[1] Boston Globe, Sept. 28, 1995, pp. A1-3.
[2] Science News, Nov. 28, 1992, p. 377.
[3] New Scientist, Jan. 7, 1995, p. 22.
[4] The Amicus Journal, Spring, 1993, p. 20.
[5] New Scientist, Jan. 7, 1995, p. 25.
[6] Seed World, June, 1995, p. 24.
[7] The Maine Organic Farmer & Gardener, Sept-Nov, 1995, p. 8-9.
[8] The American Vegetable Grower, October, 1995, p. 37.
[9] The American Vegetable Grower, October, 1995, p. 37.
[10] Science News, July 5, 1991, p. 33.
[11] Science News, July 5, 1991, p. 33.
[12] The Amicus Journal, Spring, 1993, p. 22.
[13] Science News, Aug. 19, 1989, pp. 120-122, 124.
[14] New Scientist, Jan. 7, 1995, p. 25.
[15] Science News, Nov. 1, 1991, p. 646.
[16] The Maine Organic Farmer & Gardener, Sept-Nov, 1995, p. 8.
[17] The Maine Organic Farmer & Gardener, Jun-Aug. 1995, p. 30.
[18] Seed World, July, 1995, pp. 12-13.
[19] Seed World, November, 1989, p. 53.
[20] Peters Seed and Research, 1995 catalog, p. 2.

Bibliography

The Amicus Journal, Spring, 1993, pp. 19-34, (Natural Resources Defense Council: New York).

Doyle, Jack Altered Harvest (Penguin Books: New York) 502 pages.

Fowler, Cary and Pat Mooney Shattering (University of Arizona Press: Tucson) 278 pages.

Kloppenburg Jr., Jack Ralph First the Seed: The Political Economy of Plant Biotechnology (Cambridge University Press: Cambridge) 349 pages. (By far the best book on the subject!)

Maine Organic Farmer & Gardener issues from 1994 and 1995 (Augusta, ME), especially 3-part series by Nicholas Lindholm appearing in Nov-Dec, 1994, March-May, 1995 and June-Aug. 1995 issues

Nabhan, Gary Paul Enduring Seeds (North Point Press: San Francisco) 225 pages.

New Scientist, January 1995, "Whatever Happened to the Gene Revolution?" pp. 21-25.

Rissler, Jane and Margaret Mellon Perils Amidst the Promise: Ecological Risks of Transgenic Crops in a Global Market (Union of Concerned Scientists: Cambridge) 92 pages.

Seed Savers Exchange The First Ten Years (Seed Saver Publications: Decorah, IA) 416 pages.

Seed Savers Exchange Harvest Editions, Summer Editions, 1985-1995 (Seed Saver Publications: Decorah, IA).

Science News Issues from 1989 to date (Washington, DC) have periodic articles keeping up with genetic developments.

Seed World Issues from 1989 to date (Scranton Gilette Communications: Des Plaines, IL) for the industry's perspective.

Suzuki, David and Peter Knudson Genethics (Harvard University Press: Cambridge) 372p.

RESOURCES

The Seed Savers Exchange, 3076 N Winn Rd, Decorah, IA 52101, is a grassroots network of gardeners and plant collectors who maintain and distribute rare varieties of food crops. Their 1995 Yearbook listed 1031 members who maintain a combined collection of more than 5000 heirloom vegetable varieties. Over the past five years the SSE has purchased the 140-acre Heritage Farm to aid in the preservation effort. Annual membership is $25, or send $1 for informational brochure. **The Flower and Herb Exchange**, whose members maintain over 1000 varieties of heirloom herbs and flowers, is at the same address. Annual membership in FHE is $7.

The Scatterseed Project, Box 1167, Farmington, ME 04938, is a regional seed exchange for this area and serves as curator for a substantial part of the SSE collection. They do not have a catalog; all varieties they maintain are available through SSE.

The Maine Seed Savers Network, PO Box 60, New Gloucester, ME 04260, promotes and preserves the genetic diversity found in open-pollinated varieties and helps maintain public access to these varieties through active production and distribution of seeds and information about saving seeds. Annual membership is $5 for individuals, $9 for families.

MOFGA (Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association), PO Box 2176, Augusta, ME 04338, works to promote sustainable agriculture through legislative and educational initiatives, annual sponsorship of the Common Ground Country Fair, publication of its quarterly newspaper, and sponsorship of a farm apprenticeship program and a community gardening program. Maintains local chapters.

NOFA (Northeast Organic Farming Association) is for the rest of the Northeast what MOFGA is for Maine. Maintains state chapters in VT, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY and NJ (also serves PA). Sponsors educational conferences each summer and winter, and publishes a quarterly newspaper. For more information, write Julie Rawson, 411 Sheldon Rd, Barre, MA 01005.

CSANA (Community Supported Agriculture of North America) is a clearinghouse of information and assistance for existing and aspiring CSAs. Their publication Basic Formula To Create CSA is available for $10. Write Robyn Van En, CSA Indian Line Farm, RR 3 Box 85, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

Fedco Seeds 1994 catalog contained a resource directory of other retail seed catalogs we have found useful. Please send us a SASE for this listing.

Annual membership rates for MOFGA and NOFA. You can join when you order; list names and addresses on a separate sheet, indicate new membership or renewal; add total on order form.

state	individual	family	supporting	other	
ME	25	35	60	15	student/elder
VT	20	20	35		
NH	25	35	100	18	student/senior
MA	25	35	100	15	low income
RI	20	25	50		
CT	25	35	100	15	low income
NY	25	30	100	15	student/senior
NJ	25	35	50		

Variety Descriptions by CR Lawn - As indicated in the descriptions, some of our selections are more suitable to home gardeners than commercial growers. Because there are so many variables in gardening and farming, success in our trials is not a guarantee of success in your plot. In particular, climate and soil type have a significant impact on performance. We advise market growers to trial unfamiliar varieties on a small scale before making a full commitment.

Prices - By popular demand, we now include sizes and prices in the catalog. Here's how it works: Atop each section we list catalog numbers and sizes and prices which apply for the whole section unless otherwise noted. After the individual variety descriptions, we list available sizes (ABCDE) as well as any deviations from the section prices.

For example, all 5 sizes of #103 Provider Bean are available; sizes A-D but not E of #129 Golden Butterwax are available. All five sizes of #180 Vilbel are available, but size E costs $32, not $20.

Please use one of our order forms to order. If you use form 1020-EZ on the inside back cover of the catalog, please make sure—by doublechecking each item in the catalog or on the large grid order form—that you are ordering an available size for the correct price.

BEANS

2 oz. packet sows 25 ft; 1 lb., 200 ft. Tender, will not survive frost. Plant 3-4 seeds/ft. in rows 24-30" apart. Pick frequently to keep beans producing, but stay out of the patch in wet weather to prevent spread of fungal diseases.

103-169: A=2oz, 80¢; B=½lb, $2.00; C=1lb, $3.40; D=5lb, $12.00, E=10lb, $22.00.

BUSH GREEN BEANS

103 Provider (50 days) For highest early yields and taste, old reliable Provider can't be beat. Noted for its concentrated sets of round 5-5½" pods with beany taste. A heavy yielder even under adverse conditions. Always our top seller, in 1995 we sold over 2700 packets. Released by USDA in 1965. ABCDE

109 Greencrop (53 days) An early flat-podded Romano type especially adapted to the North. Pods can grow up to 8" long while still retaining good quality. 1957 AAS. ABCDE

113 Royal Burgundy (55 days) Less foliage than Royalty Purple Pod, which it replaced. Straight 5" meaty purple pods turn bright green after two minutes of blanching. Grows well even in cold conditions. ABCD

115 Jade (56 days) Although we seldom get excited about new bush beans, Jade is exceptional. Sure to be a favorite with both market and home gardeners, Jade offers great yields of tasty, 5-7" straight slender round pods of dark green color. Holding quality is Jade's byword. Not only do the pods hold their rich color longer than others both on the vine and after picking, but also Jade retains the ability to keep producing those quality pods until late in the season, long after others have quit. Jade's strong upright bush habit holds pods above the ground, reducing curling and tip rot. Pods are tender, yet maintain that traditional bean flavor. No wonder Jade is our first bush bean introduction (other than French types) since 1992! The best of the 18 varieties in John Dickey's trial. NEW! ABCD

117 Bush Blue Lake 274 (57 days) Long considered to set the taste standard for home garden bush bean varieties. Pods avg. 6", fill slowly with tender, plump beans. Very high yields. ABCDE

120 Roma II (59 days) Answers numerous customer requests for a true flat bush Romano bean. A heavy yielder of fleshy medium-green 5" pods which are slow to develop seeds. ABCD

BUSH WAX BEANS

125 Golden Rocky (54 days) Also known as Beurre de Rocquencourt. The best-tasting wax bean. Germinates well in cool, wet conditions and retains vigor even under cool night temperatures. Noteworthy for slender juicy pods that melt in your mouth. Not beany. Pods grow to 6". ABCDE

129 Golden Butterwax (56 days) From Agway comes this quality white-seeded wax bean impressive for its rich yellow color and straight pods. Golden Butterwax is less juicy, more meaty than Golden Rocky, but less mealy than Keygold or Sungold. ABCD

132 Dragon Langerie (57 days) Also known as Dragon's Tongue. This creamy yellow bean covered with purple stripes is an attractive novelty with a good juicy taste. Plentiful producer of flat 6" pods that keep coming as long as you keep picking regularly. ABCDE

POLE BEANS

2 oz. packet sows 20 poles, 6 per pole. We've used tipis for staking for years. Will Bonsall suggests letting them climb sunflower stalks (give the sunflowers a 2-week head-start). See also #170-172, 1012.

136 Kentucky Wonder (68 days) Also known as Old Homestead. This standard climbing variety has been a favorite since the mid 1800s. Offered by Olds Seed Co. in their 1915 catalog for 10¢ a packet and 20¢ a pound! The nutty flavor makes them outstanding for freezing. Pick regularly to maintain quality & production. Not good when fat. Brown seeds. ABCDE

MISCELLANEOUS BEANS

140 Windsor Fava (75 days) Unlike other beans, broad beans should be planted as soon as the ground can be worked. They tolerate frost, but do not thrive in hot weather. Sow the large seeds 3-4" apart. Harvest when the light green beans in the 6" glossy pods reach the green shell stage. Cook like lima beans. ABCDE

144 Taylor Dwarf Horticultural Shell (68 days) Also known as Speckled Bays, this heirloom shell bean may date back 150 years. Early producers of cream-colored pods splashed with carmine red. ABCDE

147 Scarlet Runner (70 days) Climbing beans often grown as ornamentals for their brilliant scarlet blossoms which attract hummingbirds. Need trellises, fences, or poles; will grow to 10-12'. Can be eaten both as snap or shell (95 days) beans. Beautifully mottled purple and black seeds. Heirloom variety grown as early as 1750 by colonists. ABCD

DRY BEANS

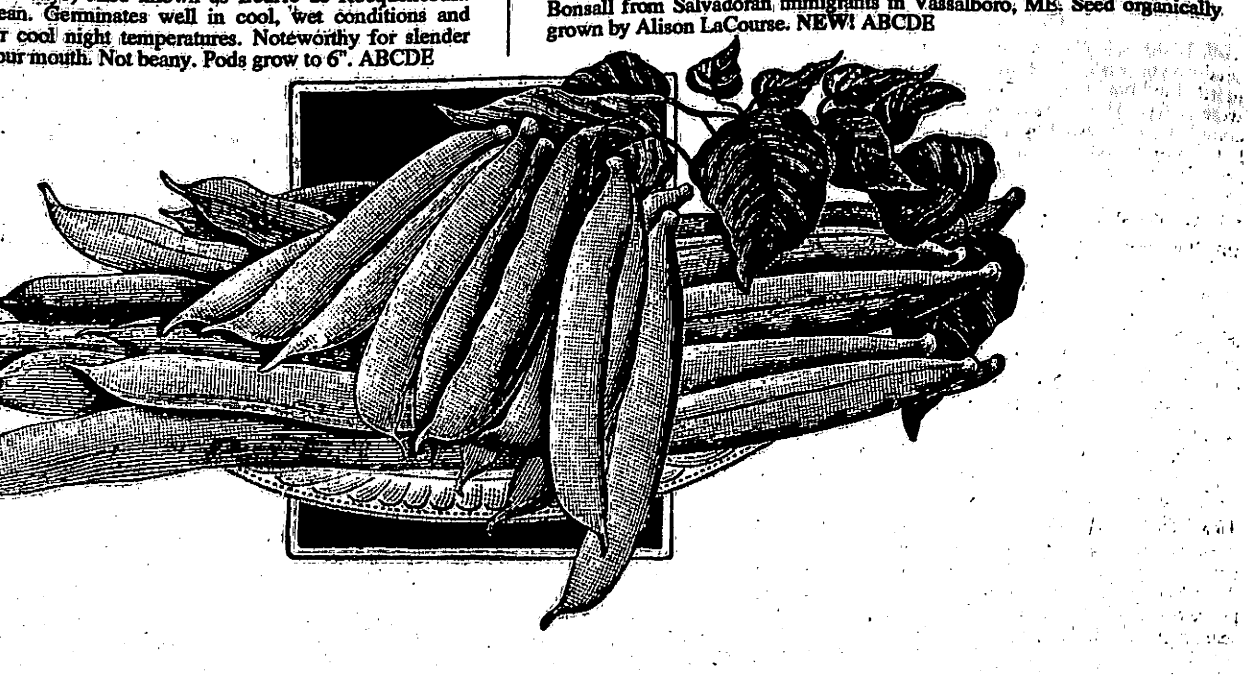
150 Limelight (85 days) Years ago we trialed Limelight for bush green beans (45 days) and they were horrible, stringy and tough. Had we allowed them to get to the shell stage (around 60 days) or to dry, we'd have liked them much better. The compact plants set light green seeds which are similar in shape, color and taste to baby limas, except sweeter, with a buttery texture. They are very early for a dry bean, making them easy to grow, which cannot be said of limas in our climate. Developed in Alberta, Canada. ABCDE

151 Marfax (86 days) Heirloom resembling Swedish Brown Bean, but earlier and higher yielding. Richly flavored brown baking bean is very adaptable to our cool climate. Seed produced in Maine. ABCDE

154 Jacob's Cattle (88 days) Popular New England heirloom variety which derives its name from the biblical story of Jacob and the spotted cattle. Its dark red speckles on white background are said to look like the cattle's markings. If harvested earlier the kidney-shaped beans make superb shellies. Seed produced in Maine. ABCDE

157 Soldier (89 days) Large white kidney bean with red-brown soldier-like figure on its eye. A New England favorite for generations. Seed grown in Maine. ABCDE

158 Monos Negros (90 days) The name means black monkeys in Spanish. Trialer and staffer Marina Davis brought this small heirloom black bean to our attention. Plant economy and extreme earliness are its primary assets. Plants neither sprawl, twine nor get moldy. Flavor is not quite as rich as Black Turtle, but it ripens much earlier. Seed originally collected by Will Bonsall from Salvadoran immigrants in Vassalboro, ME. Seed organically grown by Alison LaCourse. NEW! ABCDE



160 Maine Yellow Eye (92 days) Ranks with Jacob's Cattle as our most popular dried beans. Plump oval medium-sized beans, cream with yellow eye. Seed grown in Maine. ABCDE

164 Red Kidney (102 days) Early maturing variety of light red kidney baking bean developed at Cornell University. Large beans mature at least a week earlier than similar types. Seed grown in Maine. ABCDE

167 Black Turtle (104 days) A tall bush developed by Cornell University. Small black beans with rich spicy flavor popular for soup. Seed grown in Maine. ABCD

169 Black Kabouli Bush Garbanzo (115 days) If you've suffered from drought in recent summers, take note! Middle East legends hold that garbanzos attract thunderstorms when flowering. A cool-weather crop cultured like peas, garbanzos hail originally from Afghanistan. Black Kabouli was developed at Washington State University and is tolerant of cold soils and light frosts. Its 2' plants bear abundant two-seeded pods resembling beach peas with black medium-sized beans within. Its tiny purple flowers are very ornamental. Don't be scared off by its lengthy maturation requirements. Plant earlier than other beans. And do a rain dance among its flowers in July! AB

BEAN THERE

170-195: A=½oz, 60¢; B=2oz, $1.60; C=½lb, $4.50; D=1lb, $7.50, E=5lb, $20.00, except where noted.

POLE BEANS

170 Northeaster Pole (55 days) Also known as Kwintus. The seed comes from Holland. Earliest and best-tasting pole bean we've tried. Ripens almost two weeks earlier than Kentucky Wonder. Early, vigorous climbers with outstanding flavor which improves with blanching. Somewhat flattened pods don't get tough even when big. In recent years we've tried several dozen pole beans and have yet to find one that comes close to matching the quality of Northeaster. ABC; D=$8.50, E=$35.00

172 Emerite Pole (60 days) A fancy French filet pole bean! Emerite may be picked in the baby stage when the pods are very thin and about 4" long, or allowed to grow a full 7". The elegant straight pods do not develop strings and are slow to fill out. AB

HARICOTS VERTS

Haricot vert is French for green bean. This type has fancier quality than American beans and should command a premium in markets. For optimal flavor, pick pods while they are still thin before they develop strings.

177 La Belle (56 days) Also known as Label; we prefer the original pre-Anglicized name. Those who like very slender, short haricots verts will appreciate La Belle. It makes a vigorous set of slim pods which are mature at 3-4" long and a quarter inch in diameter. Because the pods are extremely slow to fatten and develop strings, they need not be picked as frequently as other haricots verts to maintain delectable gourmet quality. ABC

180 Vilbel (60 days) A standout in several years' trials, Vilbel most closely resembles Vernandon in its long pods, vigorous vines and rich juicy bean taste. Vilbel, like its predecessor, has mostly straight 6½-7 inch pods, some with mild curvature. It yielded better than Vernandon in our 1992 trial, and rated almost as highly for taste. For fancy beans with no strings and tender flavor, start harvesting the young pods and keep them picked frequently. ABCD; E=$32.00

MISCELLANEOUS TYPES

184 Vermont Cranberry Shell (70 days) This is the same strain of the heirloom once offered by Vermont Bean Seed. The pods contain 5 to 6 speckled cranberry-colored beans. Reliable, hardy and easy to shell. A New England tradition for over 100 years. For dry beans, add three weeks to maturity date. Seed grown in Maine. *Caution: viney habit has not been bred out of this cultivar.* ABCDE

186 King of the Early Dry (85 days) Some years back longtime seed-saving customer Linwood Ware sent us a sample of this beautiful mottled red baking bean. We first noticed its ability to ripen early. Then we were intrigued by its capacity to swell enormously when soaked. We became completely convinced by its hearty flavor and its utter dependability through hot summers and cool. So we had our Maine bean grower produce a seed crop. We've found King of the Early easy to grow and heavy yielding year after year. ABCDE

187 Calypso Dry (90 days) In 1994 Calypso generated more interest than any other bean introduction in years. And no wonder. From our first glimpse of Calypso at the 1992 Common Ground Fair Exhibition Hall, we knew we wanted to offer it. At once stark and stunning, its markings are uncannily similar to the Chinese yin/yang symbol. This black and white bean even includes a contrasting dot. Though not as heavy a yielder as King of the Early, Calypso dependably produces 4-5 beans per pod, with a texture similar to Yellow Eye. Seed grown in Maine by Patti Qua. ABCDE

188 Agate Pinto Dry (92 days) A bush pinto with medium-sized mottled beans of rich spicy flavor. Rogers Bros. succeeded in breeding out the usual sprawling runners, a breakthrough in Pinto development which makes Agate easy to harvest. Seed grown organically in Maine by staffer Alison LaCourse. ABCDE

195 Tohya Soybean (88 days) Our long search for Fedco's answer to Butterbeans reached fruition in this Japanese variety. Tohya has proven to be an early reliable heavy producer in four consecutive trials. Vigorous vines grow thigh-high with early concentrated sets of easy-to-pick delicious light green pods, many with three beans. These are a good substitute for limas in short-season areas. The Japanese eat them as beer nuts, boiled and salted. AB

AMAIZING CORN

2 oz packet sows 50 ft, 1 pound sows 400 ft.

CAUTION: Untreated sweet corn seed will not germinate in cold wet soil. Please be patient and wait till soil warms to at least 60° before sowing, or start seedlings indoors and transplant at 3-6" stage before taproots take off. Tender, will not survive frost. Heavy nitrogen requirements. Rows 3' apart, 4 seeds/ft. Thin to 1' apart. When corn is knee-high, a side-dressing of azomite or alfalfa meal can really stimulate growth. Should be planted in blocks of at least 4 rows to ensure adequate pollination, essential for good tip fill.

If you have trouble with crows pulling up seedlings, use Bird-Scaring Balloons or cover sowings with floating row covers. Remove covers at 3-6" stage to avoid plant abrasion. A few drops of mineral oil applied to the silks can substantially reduce earworm damage. Although we know of no sure defense against critters, interplanting with pumpkins may improve the odds.

Trialers Donna Dyrek (Loon Song Farm) and I (Shooting Star Farm) each grew 15 corn varieties in 1995 and are responsible for adding 7 new ones to our list in the last two years. All but one of the additions are homozygous sugary enhanced crosses, five of which come from the superb breeding program at Mesa Maize. Sugary enhanced corn has been found to be especially suitable to our climate, with good cool-soil tolerance and a near-perfect blend of sugars and corn flavor. All SE sweet corn traces back to a single inbred developed in the 1960s in Illinois by Dr. Dusty Rhodes, ILL677a.

Our trialers have a lot of fun outwitting porcupines and raccoons and look forward each season to the harvest celebrations: Loon Song's annual corn fest with neighbors and friends ("Eat what's sweet till we drop"), and my corn roast in the husks with new potatoes masterminded by fellow farm gardener and neighbor Richie Tory. See also #1014-1018.

208-248: A=2oz, $1.25; B=½lb, $4.00; C=1lb, $8.60; D=5lb, $29.50; E=10lb, $53.00.

YELLOW SWEET CORN

208 Spring Treat (71 days) There are a zillion new hybrid sweet corns and most of them are pretty similar in our trials: good eating but not exceptional. Rarely does a new corn zing our taste buds like yellow SE hybrid Spring Treat. Showing good cold soil emergence, Spring Treat ripens around the time of Sugar Buns, but with longer ears that are easier to pick. The real clincher that made it a consensus choice at Shooting Star Farm was its rich corny taste that we haven't enjoyed since Intrepid. Not as sweet as Sugar Buns, but you won't find better eating quality, ear length or appearance in another early corn. ABCD

209 Ashworth (72 days) We jumped at the chance when our friends at Garden City Seeds in Montana offered us organic seed for Ashworth. Ashworth is a composite of early varieties originally developed by Johnny's Selected Seeds and named in honor of Suzanne Ashworth, longtime seed saver and author of Seed to Seed (the best book on seed saving—available in our book section #2377). It is open-pollinated so you can save your own seed. Its short stalks have 6-7" yellow ears with good flavor. Be sure to harvest it at peak milk stage—like all open-pollinated corn it does not hold quality for long in the field. Germinates well in cool soil. AB

210 Sugar Buns (74 days) Yellow sugary enhanced hybrid from Crookham with melt-in-your-mouth tenderness. About as sweet as our palates like, but not cloying like the supersweets. Sugar Buns does not have as good cold soil emergence as other early corns; please don't rush it. ABCD

212 Mariah (75 days) This yellow hybrid with shrunken "supersweet" gene has better cold soil emergence than most other supersweets. Mariah is one of the new generation of supersweets that retains some of the corn flavor along with its extra sweetness. 7-8" yellow ears have outstanding quality which holds for several days after picking. Must be isolated from other corns shedding pollen at the same time by at least 150', or else quality suffers. Do not plant just before a cold rain; wait till soil temperatures warm to at least 65°. Seeds shrunken, higher count per oz. AB

215 Bodacious (77 day) Crookham's sugary enhanced hybrid has exceptionally sweet corny tender yellow kernels that taste as good as its name! 8" ears have been outstanding in our trials. Joann's favorite variety. ABCDE

217 Kandy King (79 days) We weren't looking for another midseason yellow but after tasting sugary enhanced hybrid Kandy King at each of our trial sites we just couldn't pass it up. Indeed, King is well-named—its magnificent 8" ears pack superb flavor into every bite, and the "Kandy" says all you need to know about its sweetness. Good cool-soil emergence and holds well in the field. NEW! ABCD

218 Tuxedo (80 days) Dress may be an over-rated quality in human society, but when it comes to commercial sweet corn varieties, dress is more than just a pretty face. The well-dressed sweet corn has good husk protection to keep those pesky earworms out! Tuxedo lives up to its name. When other varieties were infested with earworms in 1994, Tuxedo had none, even when we left it on the stalks past peak maturity. Nor are sugary enhanced hybrid Tuxedo's attributes confined to the surface. It offers a rich sweet tender corny taste which is the equal of any midseason yellow, and handsome 8-inch ears with 16 rows of delicious kernels that will melt in your mouth. Tuxedo can germinate at cool temperatures and withstand a fair amount of stress. I haven't worn one since my high school prom, but I'd want this one for my farmstand! ABCD

222 Kandy Korn (89 days) Attractive deep purple husks and excellent holding quality make this yellow corn a real winner at roadside stands. Among the first sugary enhanced varieties to be developed, Kandy Korn has stood the test of time, and is now enjoying a renewed popularity. ABCDE

BICOLOR SWEET CORN

225 Quickie (71 days) Early bicolor hybrid. Ripens with Sugar & Gold, but more uniform high quality, longer ears, and 12 rows of kernels instead of 10. Crookham release is the best early bicolor we've yet found. ABCD

228 Double Gem (76 days) A classy bicolor sugary enhanced hybrid for the all-important second-early slot, Double Gem's blocky 8" ears fill well to the tip for a lot of good eating. Rarely have we encountered such sweetness and tenderness in this early a corn. Good cold soil emergence. NEW! ABCD

231 Kiss 'n Tell (81 days) You will want to include this sugary enhanced bicolor hybrid in your program despite its ridiculous name! Ripening just before midseason, its 7" ears with dark green husks hold their quality over a long picking period. Boasts attractive small kernels of rich sweetness with superb taste comparable to Sugar Buns. I like Kiss 'n Tell more and more with each passing season; it is now in my top five. ABCD

232 Lancelot (82 days) We took notice when Loon Song Farm trialers rated this midseason bicolor sugary enhanced hybrid as "better than Burgundy Delight this year." Lancelot has a lot going for it besides its sweet, tender kernels. It snaps easily, is very drought tolerant, and shows good tip fill. NEW! ABCDE

233 Burgundy Delight (84 days) Burgundy Delight is a terrific midseason hybrid with as good flavor as we've yet found in a bicolor. In conditions of high fertility its tall stalks often bear two good 7-8" ears with handsome purple blushes on their husks. Burgundy holds in prime condition in the field longer than almost any other variety. Bicolor corn just doesn't come any better than this! ABCD

WHITE SWEET CORN

235 Spring Snow (73 days) At last an early white sweet corn with a real corny flavor! No longer will white corn lovers have to wait for Platinum Lady. Now Snow will give you a great start on the season until Lady is ready. Expect 7½" ears of excellent quality for early in the season. Sugary enhanced hybrid. Replaces Pristine. NEW! ABCD

239 Platinum Lady (83 days) I rate this as the best quality eating corn of all, and many of our customers, who made it our #1 selling sweet corn for years, agree. Sugary enhanced kernels stay sweet and tender over long picking period. Flavor achieves a perfect balance between corny and sugary. Ornamental purple coloring on leaves makes plants very attractive. Very dependable in our climate. Roast a few ears of Platinum Lady with some new potatoes, now that's good eating! ABCDE

242 Silver Queen (96 days) White hybrid which has long set the standard for late-maturing sweet corn. Large handsome ears, with glossy white creamy sweet kernels that fill to the very tips. Although risky in short-season areas, it ripens for us most years a few days before Common Ground Fair in late September, sneaking in just ahead of our first killing frost. Because our first frost came late in 1994, we enjoyed Silver Queen until we ran out on Oct 10! I can't think of a better way to end the corn season. *Caution: germinates poorly in cold soil.* ABCDE

POPCORN

See also #1792.

245 Strawberry (95 days) Highly decorative maroon 2" ears which taper slightly to the tip. Colorful kernels pop into a white popcorn. Old heirloom variety. ABCDE

246 White Cloud (95 days) F-1 hybrid. Vermont market grower Alan LePage calls this a "stupendous" popping corn. Its small, deep, pointed hulless kernels puff up nicely when they pop. Makes 5" ears on very tall plants with much higher yields than Tom Thumb. ABCDE

DRY FIELD CORN

248 Mandan Bride (98 days) This colorful flour corn is believed to have originated with the Mandan tribe of Minnesota and North Dakota. I love stringing the ears of many hues on a line as a way of completing the drying process and of celebrating the beauty and bounty of the harvest. Organically grown in Maine by Jeanne Griffin. Sorry, short crop in 1995, limit 1 pkt per household. A only.

SWEET CORN SELECTIONS AT A GLANCE

variety	days	kernels	genetic type*	plant height	ear length	# rows
Seneca Horizon	71	yellow	normal sugary	60-66 inches	8 inches	16-18
Spring Treat	71	yellow	se-se	72 inches	7-8 inches	14
Ashworth	72	yellow	open-pollinated	60 inches	6-7 inches	12
Sugar Buns	74	yellow	se-se	76 inches	6-7 inches	14
Mariah	75	yellow	supersweet	72 inches	7-8 inches	12-14
Bodacious	77	yellow	se-se	87 inches	8 inches	18
Kandy King	79	yellow	se-se	90 inches	8 inches	16
Tuxedo	80	yellow	se-se	90 inches	8-9 inches	16
Kandy Korn	89	yellow	se	102 inches	8 inches	16
Quickie	71	bicolor	normal sugary	52 inches	7 inches	12
Double Gem	76	bicolor	se-se	75 inches	8 inches	16-18
Kiss 'n Tell	81	bicolor	se-se	76 inches	7 inches	16
Lancelot	82	bicolor	se-se	84 inches	7-8 inches	16-18
Burgundy Delight	84	bicolor	normal sugary	84 inches	7-8 inches	12-14
Spring Snow	73	white	se-se	66 inches	7-8 inches	12-16
Pristine	80	white	normal sugary	82 inches	8 inches	16
Luther Hill	82	white	open-pollinated	48 inches	5 inches	
Platinum Lady	83	white	normal sugary	84 inches	8.5 inches	14
Silver Queen	96	white	normal sugary	102 inches	8 inches	14-16

*se = heterozygous sugary enhanced
se-se = homozygous sugary enhanced

Note: Adjacent plantings of corns of different color kernels will result in some cross-pollination. 8-10 rows' distance is sufficient to maintain purity.

PEAS

2 oz packet sows 30 ft, 1 lb. sows 240 ft. Young plants very hardy but frost stops production at the blossom or pod stage. Like cool, moist weather; dislike heat. Customer Polly Loré, who gardens in Willow, Alaska, reports that peas grow twice as high there as in the lower 48 and keep producing till frost! Sow as early as ground can be worked for best yields. All peas produce more when staked; varieties over 2½' must be supported. Plant 8-10 seeds/ft. in rows 3' apart (5' if very tall varieties). Early morning picking retards spread of powdery mildew disease and ensures best flavor. If you love peas as much as we do, you may want to try for a fall crop. Timing is crucial, as peas ripen slowly in the cool of September, and frost will halt production. We recommend 1st week July planting for fall crop in central Maine. Warmer areas try mid July. **Rogers Bros. in Idaho controls most of the world's pea seed production.** Recently, we have not been happy with their selection criteria. We have begun our own program to keep superior home garden pea varieties in the trade. In 1993 Nikos Kavanya and I visited Will Bonsall of Scatterseed Project, curator for the Seed Savers Exchange pea collection. We sampled dozens of pea varieties, selecting several for further investigation in our 1994 trials and one for introduction in our 1995 catalog. Over the next 5-10 years we hope to reintroduce several superior varieties. The 1994 pea seed crop from Idaho was the least vigorous in many years. If you intend to sow held-over seed in 1996, we suggest you test it for germination before planting in the field. See also #1020.

251-275: A=2oz, 70¢; B=½lb, $1.80; C=1lb, $2.80; D=5lb, $11.00, E=10lb, $19.00.

SHELL PEAS

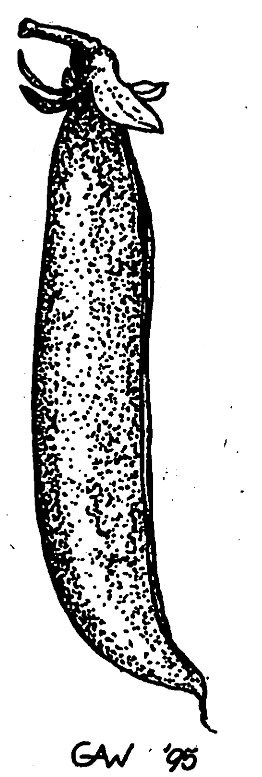
251 Coral (53 days) Makes harvesting peas before July 4th a cinch, even in cold pockets. The best quality early pea we've yet found, and an instant best-seller among our 1994 rookies. Coral started producing for us in 1994 on June 29 and was heavily laden in early July. Was even earlier in 1995, bearing almost its entire crop by July 1. Short vines barely surpass 2' and tend to set earliest pods low. Good yields. Replaced Sparkle. ABCDE

252 Maestro (55 days) Early Green Arrow-type resistant to powdery mildew. Once our most popular pea, now second to Green Arrow. Extremely heavy yielders under favorable conditions. Set record in our '82 trials with almost 50 pounds per 100 row ft. Easy to pick because long pods fill out only as peas ripen. 3' vines. 8.28 peas per pod in our 1995 trial. Not as sweet as Early Frosty or Lincoln; quality deteriorates quickly after picking. Not a good shipper. ABCDE

257 Early Frosty (60 days) Outstanding quality and sweetness. 2nd early variety good for freezing. Although tricky to pick because it is best before the pods are completely filled, it is one of the easiest to shell. Holds quality for a long time after picking. Vines grow up to 3'. Susceptible to powdery mildew; performs best in early sowings. A dependable yielder every year, Frosty was a spectacular performer during 1992's exceptional pea season, producing more than 42 pounds per 100 row feet. My favorite. ABCDE

260 Patriot (62 days) Sorry, crop failure. *Not available this season.*

262 Little Marvel (63 days) Old-timey home garden favorite bears tightly packed nearly round pods on 18" vines. Very sweet. Surprising yields for such a dwarf plant. Introduced 1908. ABCDE


GAW '95

263 Top Pod (64 days) Has heat resistance to match Wando's with higher yields. Bore at Shooting Star Farm throughout the warm August of 1993. Powdery mildew resistant. 2½' tall, with good flavor for a summer pea. Replaced Wando. Seed in short supply, order early. ABC

266 Green Arrow (65 days) Sets the standard for mid-season varieties. Long pods with up to 10 peas per pod on vines up to 3'. Very heavy yielding. Easy to pick because pods tend to set in pairs at the top. Our most popular pea, sold nearly 800 lbs. of seed in 1995. ABCDE

268 Miragreen (68 days) Back in 1989 we selected Miragreen for inclusion in our catalog, based on its superior trial performance, but we couldn't locate a source for the seed. We grew it again from Will Bonsall's collection in 1994, and this time we tracked it to the J.W. Jung Seed Co and then to Ferry-Morse from whom we have purchased sufficient seed to offer all five sizes. The richness of Miragreen's dark green pods is unsurpassed—matched only by the flavor of the peas within. Of the 13 varieties we trialed in 1989, Miragreen ranked highest for taste, chosen ahead of several varieties we've listed for years. It is always right near the top in peas per pod, too, ranking second behind Maestro among our nine 1995 cultivars with 7.62. Miragreen has some ability to perform in hot, dry conditions and is excellent for freezing. Because vines grow to 4', it requires staking. ABCD; E=$21.00

269 Lincoln (70 days) Many still consider this old favorite the sweetest pea. Mid season. 3-3½" slender curved pods filled with very sweet peas. Vines up to 3'. Susceptible to powdery mildew. ABCDE

272 Mayfair (72 days) We regret that Rogers Bros. has discontinued producing this marvelous pea, and we have yet to find a reliable grower for our stock seed. *Not available this season.*

275 Alderman or Tall Telephone (75 days) Another old-time favorite, and one of the best-tasting. Vines 5-6' or more. Polly Loré writes from Alaska, "I would have liked to plant Telephone, but don't dare!" Pods avgd. almost 5" with 8.3 peas per pod, best of the 11 varieties in our 1989 trial. ABCDE

SOUP PEAS

279 Holland Capucijners (85 days) We regret crop failure in 1995. *Not available this season.*

EDIBLE PODDED PEAS

Culture same as shell peas. Snow peas should be harvested before pods fill out. Snap peas taste sweetest when completely filled. A common mistake is to pick snaps too soon. Young snap plants may be harvested for greens, good in mesclun or lightly cooked.

282-298: A=2oz, 90¢; B=½lb, $2.40; C=1lb, $3.80; D=5lb, $16.50, E=10lb, $26.00.

SNOW PEAS

282 Dwarf White Sugar (59 days) A 1941 Agway introduction which ripens very early. 3' vines produce abundant yields at top of plants. Easy to pick. Pods small (2-2½") sweet and tender. Susceptible to yellows. ABCDE

285 Blizzard (61 days) The best dwarf snow pea, unfortunately not available because Rogers Bros. has discontinued production. Blizzard is a patented variety for which we cannot legally grow commercial seed crops until the year 2005. Blizzard is a perfect example of why the Plant Variety Protection Act is not in the best interests of gardeners and farmers. *Not available this season.*

287 Oregon Sugar Pod II (62 days) Short-vined snow pea from Oregon State University. Pods 4" long, vines 2-2½'. Difficult to pick because fruit tends to set within foliage. Susceptible to powdery mildew. Good choice in sandy soils or under dry conditions. ABCDE

290 Mammoth Melting Sugar (72 days) The standard climbing snow pea. Vines grow 5-7'. Very heavy yields of 4-5" pods. Continues to produce if kept picked clean provided powdery mildew does not strike. Very sweet eaten raw as well as sautéed. ABCDE

291 Osaya Endo (72 days) We are still looking for a reliable grower to multiply our stock seed. *Not available this season.*

SNAP PEAS

293 Sugar Ann (58 days) 1983 Silver All-America winner from Sugarsnap breeders Gallatin Valley. Dwarf 2' vines. The earliest snap pea, as early as June 21 in our trials. Very good quality, sweetest of the dwarf snap peas. Not as heavy yielding as tall Sugarsnap. Use to start the season. ABCDE

296 Sugar Lode (65 days) Rogers Bros. invited us to name their release. Our choice stems from the tremendous yields of these bushy 3' plants in our trial. We harvested 34 pounds in concentrated sets from only 52 ft. of row. Although the pods are slow to sweeten, they have a good pea flavor which becomes sugary when they are full. Recommended for second early crop after Sugar Ann and for late crop after Sugarsnap because they hold well in heat. ABCDE

298 Sugarsnap (68 days) Sugarsnap varieties had once been around, but they had been lost and almost forgotten when breeder Calvin Lamborn first got interested in them in the late 1960s. When Lamborn released his tall variety in 1978 he created a sensation and his cultivar won the gold All-America Award. A few years later it was voted the #1 all-time All-America selection. Sugarsnaps have become almost old hat now and it's easy to forget that they are one of the very best raw treats in the garden especially if you've only sampled the less tasty dwarf versions recently. Tall Sugarsnap vines grow 5-7' and need strong stakes. Pods reach superb sweetness only when completely filled. Then they are incomparable. Staffer Tom Levesque's favorite variety. Sugarsnap is very susceptible to powdery mildew. ABCDE

GAW '95

You Can Vine-Ripen Melons In Maine: Here's How

Our extensive trials enable us to offer a superb selection of short-season varieties. Melons are a tender crop with high nitrogen requirements. They love heat, cannot stand frost, and can be damaged by night temperatures below 40°F. They require some extra fussing, but oh! are the results ever worthwhile!

- Note days to maturity and select varieties that will ripen in your climate. Early Chaca, Earliqueen and Yellow Doll are surest bets.
- Start indoors around May 1 in peat pots, 2 or 3 seeds to a pot. Melons resent transplanting but will take if their roots are not disturbed.
- Prepare hills in advance with liberal amounts of well-rotted manure or compost. Be sure melons will not be adjacent to vigorous crawling plants like cucumbers and winter squash.
- Transplant at the onset of a heat wave after all danger of frost is past. Water heavily and, if soil is dry, place a temporary hay mulch around plants until a soaking rain comes.
- Except during droughts, use floating row covers over plants, but to avoid abrasion do not allow covers to touch plants.
- Use black or clear plastic mulch between plants.
- Use a foliar feeding program to speed ripening.
- Remove row covers before buds open. They can be replaced when you don't desire any more fruit to set.
- To reduce rot loss, rotate ripening melons occasionally. To reduce mouse damage, place ripening melons on bricks.
- Inspect your patch *daily* at ripening time. Check fruits for aroma and color and pull gently on those that appear to be ripe. They are ripe if the pressure causes them to slip from the vine. Charentais melons should be harvested just before this full slip stage. For watermelons, thumping should produce a low, hollow sound. Spread thumb and forefinger and press hard on fruit. If you feel any give, watermelon is ripe.
- Enjoy an incomparable taste treat!

Over the years, we've had wonderful melon trials at Jeanne Griffin's, Jeanne Boelsma's, and Shooting Star Farm. From a harvest of nearly 100 fruits, I selected a delicious new muskmelon and a delectable Charantais as the best of the 23 vareties I trialed in 1995.

OPEN-POLLINATED MELONS

Cantaloupe, muskmelon etc.: 1/16 oz pkt (1.75 g) about 60 seeds. Watermelon: 1/16 oz pkt about 42 seeds.

305-313: A=1/16oz, 70¢; B=1/4oz, $1.20; C=1/2oz, $2.00.

305 Delicious 51 Muskmelon (88 days) Last offered by Fedco in 1982. We thought we'd try it again because sales for Hale's Best have been almost non-existent. Delicious 51 is considered by some to be the best open-pollinated muskmelon for cold climates still commercially available. Sweet 3 lb. fruits with medium to sparse netting over distinct ribs turn yellow at maturity, may be soft when ripe. Dark orange interiors with sweet juicy aromatic flesh. Developed by Dr. Henry Munger of Cornell University. BACK! ABC

308 Sugar Baby Watermelon (80 days) The standard northern icebox watermelon grows fruits 8-10 lb., dark green on outside and deep red on inside. Flesh quality grainier than comparable hybrids. ABC

310 Cream of Saskatchewan Watermelon (80 days) Here's your chance to have your sweet fix and be politically correct, too! Jeanne Griffin, one of our two seed growers for this heirloom says it "tastes like white sugar, very juicy, real sweet." Four of five members in her family consider it sweeter than Yellow Doll. A cinch to grow even in the North, fruits average 5-6 lb. but can reach 8-10 lb. I had my first one 7 or 8 years ago from John Navazio (now plant breeder for Garden City Seeds in Montana) and have patiently waited through several crop failures for its Fedco introduction. Navazio has said that "of all the cool climate melons I've grown in Oregon, Maine and Wisconsin, this takes the cake, not just sweet but real character and flavor." Get past its relatively unappealing white color and abundant black seeds for a real taste treat! Not a long keeper, its brittle rind will crack readily. NEW! A only.

313 Moon and Stars Watermelon (100 days) Here is a challenge worthy of the Maine melon-grower's mettle. This now-famous unique heirloom watermelon, rescued from extinction by the Seed Savers Exchange, needs lots of heat to set fruit. That it can ripen in a good season is attested by Shooting Star Farm's 18½ pounder in 1991. Rind is dark green with beautiful yellow spots which range in size from little peas (the stars) to a silver dollar or larger (the moon). Foliage is also spotted (looks diseased to the uninitiated). Flesh is pink, somewhat grainy. AB

HYBRID MELONS

315-348: A=1g, $1.40; B=3g, $3.80; C=15g (just over 1/2 oz), $13.00, except where noted.

CHARENTAIS MELONS

315 Early Chaca (72 days) Also known as Flyer. We've been captivated by the flavor and aroma of these French melons! Early Chaca is the earliest melon we've ever grown, a cinch to vine-ripen in Maine. Harvest the 1½-2 lb. fruits when they develop aroma as rind begins turning orange, then ripen at room temperature for 48 hours. Slice in half; makes two perfect servings. Unfortunately, Petoseed is dropping production of Early Chaca. We've purchased all their remaining supply. Enjoy Chaca while you can! ABC

317 French Orange (88 days) The first full-size Charentais melon we've ever grown that usually vine-ripens in our short season without rotting. Don't wait for these to slip off the vine before you harvest the 3 lb. fruits. They are ready when the dull green exterior develops a yellow-cream blush and becomes aromatic on the butt end. That aroma accurately foretells a delicious treat in store when you cut them open to reveal their tangy deep orange flesh. NEW! AB; C=$16.00

CANTALOUPES & MUSKMELONS

Cantaloupes are named for the papal gardens of Cantalupo, Italy, where some historians say the first cantaloupe was grown. They are smooth-skinned or lightly netted with few ridges. Muskmelons are usually heavily netted and deeply ribbed with larger seed cavities than cantaloupes.

320 Earliqueen Muskmelon (77 days) Developed by Dr. Brent Loy at UNH, Earliqueen is a reliable early producer of 2-3 lb. fruits of uniformly good quality. A good melon to start the season, its orange flesh is remarkably sweet for such a precocious ripener. ABC

321 Passport Cantaloupe (77 days) A delicious green-fleshed cantaloupe developed by Dr. Loy, which ripens more than a week earlier than Rocky Sweet. For maximum sweetness harvest when skin color has turned yellow. If cool wet weather causes cracking before full ripening, harvest at first yellow blush. Texture is smooth, color ranges from whitish-green near cavity to darker green towards rind, with a subtle delectable—almost tropical—taste. ABC

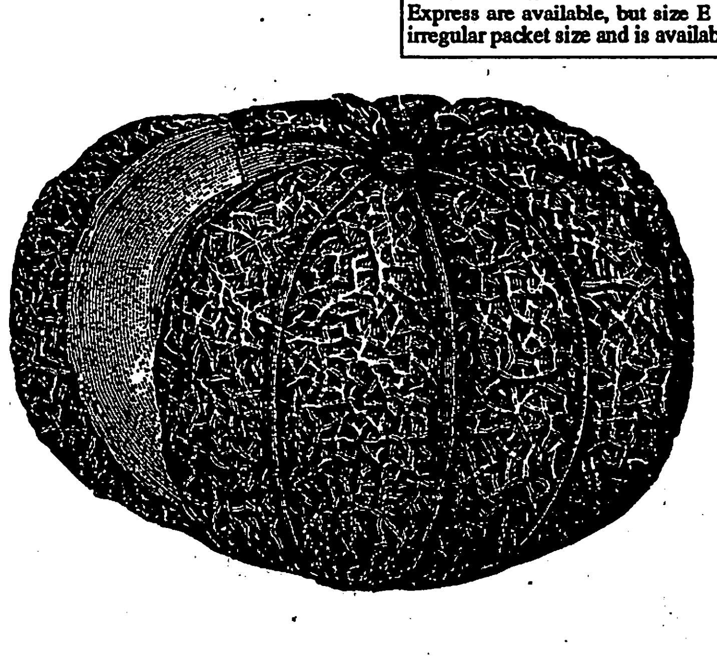
323 Earligold Cantaloupe (78 days) Much more flavor than Sweet Granite or Alaska. Makes a concentrated set of 2½ lb. netted orange-fleshed fruits of uneven quality. The best ones ripen during warm spells to a rich, musky flavor, but in less ideal ripening conditions some are insipid and watery. Skin will turn buff with a melony aroma when ripe. Inspect patch daily as they ripen; their holding quality is suspect. ABC

325 Pulsar Muskmelon (82 days) Large deeply ribbed fruits consistently average 5-6 lb. Our largest weighed in at 7½ lb. Orange flesh is slightly grainy, exceptionally sweet and aromatic. Ripens dependably with consistent high quality and a muskiness that makes you go back for more. What a treat! Very early for such a big melon. Provided our earliest vine-ripe melons in the 1995 trial (Aug 23). ABC

326 Golden Gopher Muskmelon (85 days) open pollinated. Called by Jeanne Griffin "the choice of the discriminating melon lover," this heirloom was developed in the 1930s at the University of Minnesota. Glenn Drowns of the Seed Savers Exchange was the original source for the seed which Griffin grew out and multiplied enabling Fedco to return Golden Gopher to commerce after many years' absence. We offer Maine-grown organic seed by Griffin. Heavily ribbed fruits have deep, deep orange flesh of incomparable eating quality. AB; C=$16.00

Atop each section we list catalog numbers, packet sizes and prices which apply for the whole section unless otherwise noted. After the individual variety descriptions, we list available sizes (ABCDE) as well as any deviations from the section prices.

For example, all 5 sizes of #355 National Cuke are available; sizes A-C but not D or E of #358 Vert de Massy are available. All five sizes of #352 Express are available, but size E costs $7, not $4. #368 Shantung has an irregular packet size and is available in that one size only.



327 Fastbreak Muskmelon (86 days) No, these fruits are not as big as a basketball and they don't run through the field as quickly as Magic could run the floor. Still, Fastbreak is a pretty fair midseason muskmelon, a good yielder of rough-netted 4 lb. lightly ribbed fruits. Very sweet and very musky, with flavor comparable to Pulsar. NEW! AB; C=$16.00

329 Burpee Hybrid Muskmelon (88 days) The first full-size vine-ripened muskmelon I ever ate was a Burpee Hybrid. What a revelation! The musky succulent 3-4 lb. fruits have been the choice of discerning market growers since 1955. Fruits heavily netted with distinctive ribbing and delectable orange flesh. Ripe at full slip. AB; C=$16.00

331 Ambrosia Cantaloupe (91 days) This sweet juicy salmon-fleshed melon is the choice of discriminating growers in areas where the season is sufficiently long. Round fruits average 4 lb. with thick, almost silky smooth flesh and very small cavity. The taste lives up to its name. Can harvest when fruits begin to blush yellow before full slip, and finish ripening indoors, as fruits tend to crack before full slip in cool conditions. *Caution: Not adaptable in short-season areas.* AB; C=$16.00

HONEYDEW MELON

333 Earli-Dew Honeydew (88 days) A delicious green-fleshed smooth-skinned melon suitable for cool northern areas. Fruits 2½-3 lb. about 5½" diameter blush yellow when mature. AB

WATERMELONS

338 Yellow Doll (70 days) Our customers know that the sweet yellow flesh of Yellow Doll cannot be matched by any of the red varieties. They've made Doll our best-selling melon year after year. Doll's 4-7 lb. icebox fruits on a semi-compact vine have a light green rind with dark stripes. Earliness and superb quality make Yellow Doll the best. Vine-ripens even when all others fail. ABC

340 You Sweet Thing (75 days) Alas, our Japanese supplier is dropping this round luscious rose-fleshed watermelon which will produce fruits up to 12 lb. Easier to vine-ripen than any other red type we've tried. Worth a try even if you have trouble with watermelon. This is your last chance to secure seed from our dwindling supply. Limit one pkt per household. A

343 Golden Crown (80 days) Imagine a thin golden-yellow rind on a juicy red watermelon. Add good yields of icebox-size oblong fruits with a maturity that suits the North and a great taste that suits almost anybody and you have All-America winner Golden Crown! Tolerant to powdery mildew, anthracnose and viruses. Ripens early too, and will draw you into the patch with its luminescent rind. Developed by Known You Seed Co. in Japan. A

346 Jade Star (85 days) Jade Star stole the show in our 1990 watermelon trial, producing round dark green fruit in excess of 10 lbs. Those who tasted the one we brought to our Common Ground Fair booth that fall declared it the most delicious watermelon they'd ever had. Deep red flesh—similar to that of Sugar Baby but superior in quality—contrasts with its dark rind. AB; C=$12.00

348 Sweet Favorite (86 days) 1978 All-America winner from Sakata. The best oblong watermelon for the North. Consistently produces fruits in excess of 10 lb. We grew a 13-pounder in 1987. Flesh sweet, bright red. Green rind with dark stripes. AB; C=$12.00

CUCUMBERS

1/16 oz packet sows 11 ft, 1 oz about 180 ft. Very tender, will not survive frost. Sow 2" apart in rows 3' apart or 6 per mound in hills 4' apart thinning to 3 best plants. Combat striped cucumber beetles by handpicking early AM when the dew makes them sluggish, or use floating row covers, removing when cukes flower. Pick frequently for best production. See also #1022-25.

352-374: A=1/16oz, 50¢; B=1/4oz, $1.00; C=1/2oz, $1.50; D=1oz, $2.00, E=4oz, $4.00, except where noted.

PICKLING

352 Express (48 days) F-1 hybrid. This handsome pickler really lives up to its name, cranking out most of its fruits during those first three pickings in July when the market for cukes is still strong. Multiple disease tolerance. ABCD; E=$7.00

355 National (52 days) Not quite as early as Northern Pickler, but tends to hold quality over a longer season. Firm black-spined dark-green fruits are usually quite sweet, rarely bitter. Plants are vigorous, dependable producers. ABCDE

356 Calypso (52 days) F-1 hybrid. Heavy-yielding hybrid of gynoecious type. Fruits medium-dark green with white spines. Multiple disease tolerance. ABCD; E=$7.00

358 Vert de Massy French Cornichon (53 days) A superb variety for gherkin makers. The very spiny fruits should be picked when finger size for delicious tiny pickles. Vines are incredibly high yielding–they just crank out the fruits from July to frost! Fruits are slender, but tend to curve if allowed to grow too large. *Caution: Vert de Massy is too bitter for eating out of hand. It should be reserved for pickling.* ABC

SLICING

362 Marketmore 76 (63 days) Probably the leading slicing variety in the Northeast. Dark green 8-8½" fruits show good uniformity. Vines vigorous throughout season. Tolerant to several diseases. Developed by Dr. Henry Munger. ABCDE

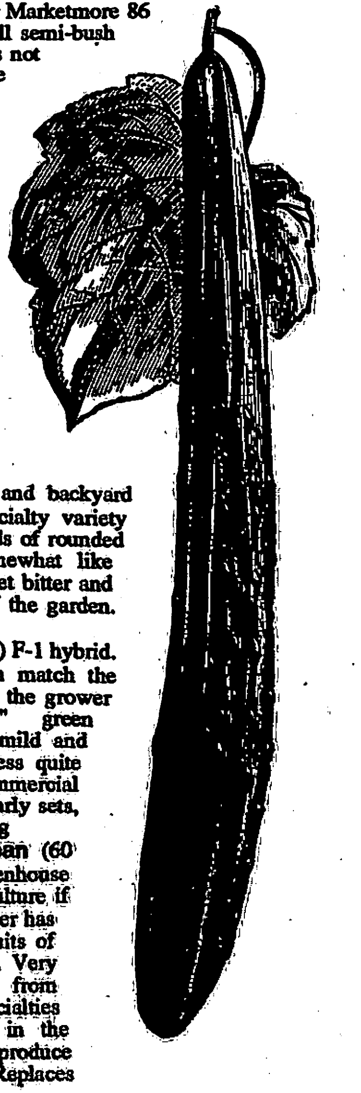
365 Marketmore 86 (68 days) With Hollar having discontinued Spacemaster 80, we offer Marketmore 86 as the closest substitute. It has a small semi-bush vine for ease of picking, although it is not as dwarf as Spacemaster. Broad disease resistance and more vigor make the quality of its 8" fruits superior to Spacemaster's. Not burpless. ABCDE

368 Shantung Suhyo Cross (60 days) F-1 hybrid. Although we are still unable to get untreated seed for open-pollinated Suyo Long, Shantung is a superior substitute, making a plethora of uniform 12-14" never-bitter sweet-tasting cukes. Even in dry conditions the vines keep producing quality fruits which never develop shrunken necks. Our cucumbers were very gracefully curved, although had we provided trellising they would have been straight. Seed comes from Japan and is very expensive. A=½ gram

370 Lemon (68 days) Salad chefs and backyard gardeners have rediscovered this specialty variety which dates back to 1894. Heavy yields of rounded yellow-skinned 3" fruits shaped somewhat like lemons. Very crisp and sweet; never get bitter and one of the best for eating right out of the garden. ABCDE

372 Amira Middle Eastern (52 days) F-1 hybrid. While no other Beit Alpha type can match the refreshing qualities of Hylares (which the grower has discontinued), Amira's 4-5" green smooth-skinned fruits are enjoyably mild and almost completely free of the bitterness quite common in American slicers. Commercial growers: Note that Amira has heavy early sets, starting soon after Express. NEW! A=1g

374 Telegraph Improved European (60 days) Originally developed for greenhouse production, but suitable for outdoor culture if trellised, this type of European cucumber has long (10-14") slim smooth-skinned fruits of very delicate mild flavor, never bitter. Very different in texture and appearance from American slicers, these European specialties often sell for a buck fifty apiece in the supermarket. Unsupported vines will produce curved and misshapen fruit. Replaces Rollinson's Telegraph. NEW! A=1g



SUMMER SQUASH

Packet sows 4-6 hills; 1 oz 40 hills. 200-300 seeds/oz; 1/8 oz. packet has 25-35 seeds. Tender, will not survive frost. Sow in hills 4 ft. apart, 6 seeds/hill. Thin to 2-3 best plants. Pick squash when they are small for best flavor. Floating row covers can hasten maturity by 1 to 2 weeks. I had 13 zucchini and Lebanese squash varieties in the 1993 trial and picked an average of 60 fruits every four days!

376-399: A=1/8oz, 80¢; B=1/4oz, $1.35; C=1/2oz, $2.10; D=1oz, $3.80, E=4oz, $13.00, except where noted.

ZUCCHINI

376 Seneca (48 days) F-1 hybrid. Early, very prolific slim medium-green fruits. ABCDE

378 Seneca Butterblossom (51 days) F-1 hybrid. Bred by Robson Seed Farms to produce a prolific quantity of large, firm male blossoms which hold longer than female flowers and are preferred by chefs. Joann made quesadillas with Butterblossoms and conventional blossoms to compare taste. Two out of three of us chose Butterblossoms for their sweeter creamier milder taste. By the way, it also produces a fair number of zucchinis. Keep them picked to keep the blossoms coming. ABCD

380 Cocozelle (53 days) Italian-style zucchini with light green stripes, rich flavor. ABC; D=$2.50, E=$4.00

383 Gold Rush (54 days) F-1 hybrid. Open plant habit and golden color make the cylindrical fruits easy to find. 1980 All-America winner has caught on with home gardeners and market growers. ABCD

384 Costata Romanesca (60 days) When you've had one zucchini, you've had them all? Not. We thought they all tasted the same until longtime seed saver Will Bonsall sent us samples of Costata. Deeply striped and ribbed, Costata resembles Cocozelle, but its flavor is distinctive: sweet and mildly nutty. In the 1995 Seed Savers Yearbook, Bonsall calls it "the only summer squash worth bothering with, unless you're just thirsty." Incidentally, Costata is good till quite large, and would be the one to grow for the biggest zucchini at the fair. Seed organically grown by Bonsall. Short crop, order early. NEW! A only

LEBANESE

385 White Bush (50 days) Also called Mid-East or Cousa squashes, Lebanese types are bulbous-shaped light green with white speckles. Robust bushes bear prolifically. Pick fruits when they are young and tender or allow them to fatten for stuffing. Very flavorful. ABCDE

YELLOW

386 Sundance (47 days) F-1 hybrid. Hybrid crookneck ripens almost 2 weeks earlier than standard Crookneck! And it keeps right on cranking out until frost finally halts it. We have averaged 18 fruits per plant. ABCD

390 Seneca Prolific (51 days) F-1 hybrid. Heavy-yielding yellow straightneck squash for the North. High yields early. ABCDE

394 Crookneck (58 days) Deep yellow fruits with bulbous shape and narrow, curved necks. Best when picked young. Popular since around 1900. ABC; D=$2.50, E=$4.00

ITALIAN EDIBLE GOURD

396 Cucuzzi (65 days) These rampant vines with striking white flowers climbed our tomato cages and created a colorful spectacle with their long pendulous light-green fruits. When the fruits are still narrow and 8-16" long, they are decent zucchini substitutes with a stronger flavor. Left unpicked the fruits will grow up to 4' with curves on each end so they can be literally worn across your shoulders or used for a swing or two in the old ball game. NEW! ABCDE

PATTY PAN

397 Sunburst (52 days) F-1 hybrid. Gourmets call Patty Pans "scallopini," and consider them the most appetizing of the summer squashes. Sunburst is the most attractive of the Patty Pans with its bright yellow skin. 1985 All-America winner. AB

399 Benning's Green Tint (55 days) Sunburst is so popular that we decided to also offer Benning's, its pale green scalloped counterpart. Fruits are most tender at 2-3" diameter. Considered an underappreciated variety by market grower Alan LePage who lauds its flavor, and looks askance at our threats to drop Benning's unless sales pick up. ABC; D=$2.50, E=$4.00

WINTER SQUASH *Cucurbita frugalis*

Plant 4-5 seeds per hill. Allow 4-6 feet per hill. Tender, not frost hardy. Heavy nitrogen feeders. Use floating row covers for earlier ripening and cucumber beetle control. Excessive hear and/or drought can prevent blossom set, reduce yields. Field cure for at least 10 days after harvest, covering if hard frost threatens, to improve flavor and storage. Store under proper conditions, 50° and 60-70% relative humidity. Approximate seed counts: Acorn, Butternut 280 seeds/oz, 70/pkt; Buttercup 160 seeds/oz, 40/pkt; Hubbard 120 seeds/oz, 30/pkt; Spaghetti 190 seeds/oz, 45/pkt; Gourds 115-160/pkt.

403-455: A=1/4oz, 60¢; B=1/2oz, $1.00; C=1oz, $1.60; D=4oz, $4.40, E=1lb, $12.00, except where noted.

403 Table Queen Acorn (90 days) 1½-2 lb. black-green ribbed fruits. Good for baking. Dry flesh is best eaten within 3-4 mos. after harvest. ABCDE

407 Bush Buttercup Emerald strain (80 days) Fruits generally a lighter green than Burgess Buttercup, not as uniform or good quality but ready 2 weeks earlier. Its mostly bush habit will save space. ABCD; E=$15.00

410 Burgess Buttercup (95 days) Sweet deep-orange flesh makes it New England's favorite winter squash. 4 lb. fruits have acorn-shaped button on the blossom end and flattened shoulders. Stem is well dried when ripe. ABCDE

414 Ponca Baby Butternut (90 days) Fruits average 2 lb., ripen tan without green streaking. If Waltham Butternut requires too long a season, then Ponca is the one for you. However, Ponca does not store as well. ABCDE

417 Waltham Butternut (105 days) Elegant 9" tan fruits weighing 4-5 lb. Orange dry flesh has a sweet nutty flavor. Excellent keeper. 1970 All-America winner. *Caution: often fails to ripen in northernmost areas.* ABCDE

420 Blue Hubbard New England strain (100 days) Bright yellow-orange dry sweet flesh. Each squash will feed a large family because fruits average 15-20 lb., sometimes exceeding 30 lb. Vines crawl all over the garden. Traditional New England favorite. I often stuff one for Thanksgiving. ABCD; E=$15.00

424 Spaghetti (88 days) A novelty item which caught on and now has devoted followers. Attraction is the spaghetti-like strings in the flesh. Flavor is rather bland. Buff skin turns pale yellow at maturity. ABCDE

GOURDS

See also #1026.

428 Small Ornamental Mix (95 days) 8 kinds of early maturing types, with small spoon, bicolored pear and small orange most prevalent. ABC

430 Small Warted Mix (95 days) Pear-shaped, scalloped and round warted gourds in a variety of colors and markings, including greens, white-grey combos, and yellow-green combos. Baseball sized. ABC

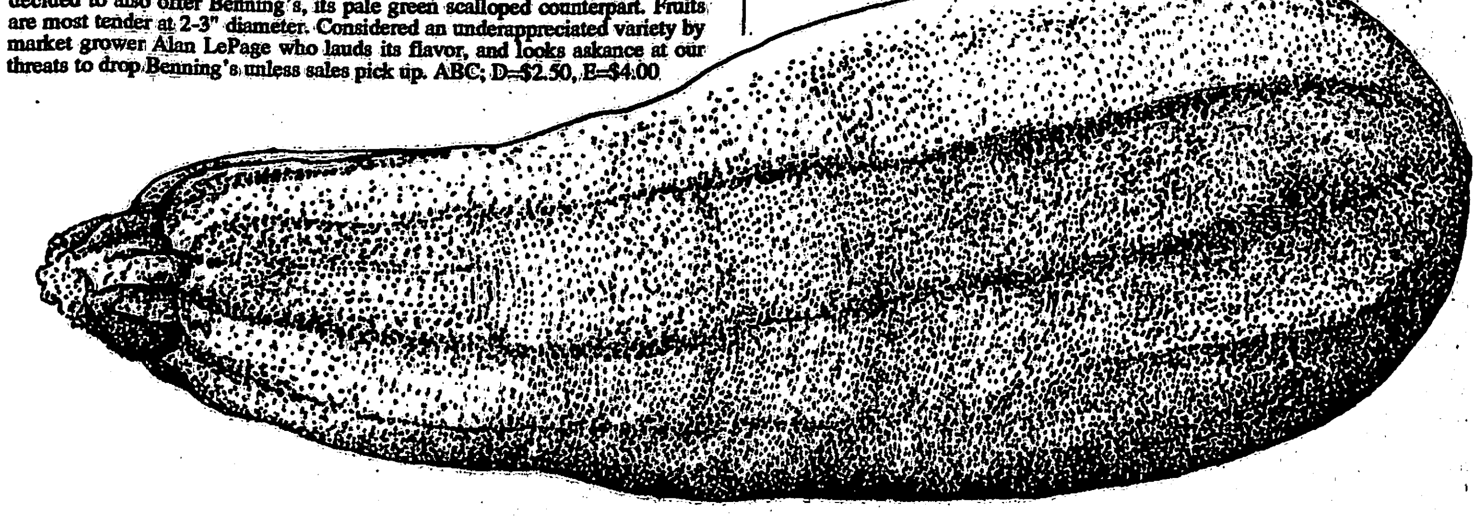
432 Shenot Crown of Thorns Mix (95 days) These small gourds have pointed ribs that look like teeth. Come in a mix of colors and markings. Often called the "ghost gourd" because of its coloring and shape. Kids love to paint faces on them for decoration. ABC

PUMPKINS

See also #479-497.

442 Baby Pam (99 days) Agway pie pumpkin has deep orange color and excellent uniformity. Best of all, it vine-ripens 80-90% of its fruits even in a bad year. Fruits average 3-5 lb., slightly smaller and earlier ripening than New England Pie with the same excellent quality. 270 seeds/oz, ~65/pkt. ABCDE

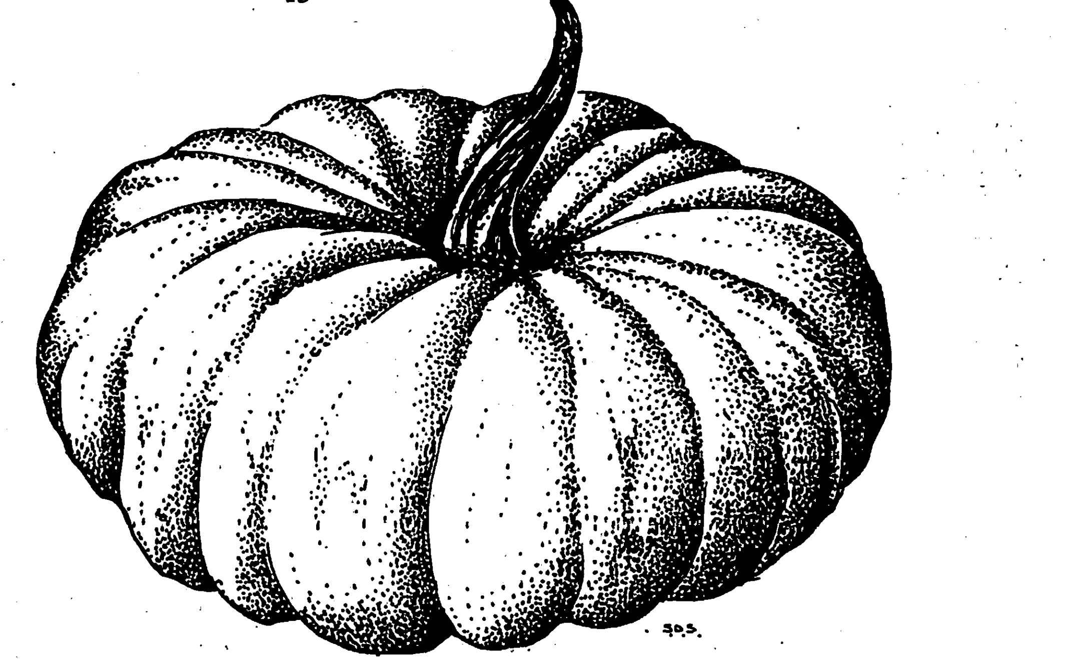
445 New England Pie (102 days) The standard small sugar pumpkin, ideal for pies. Has been a favorite since around 1860. Fruits average 5 lb. Most vine-ripen in a good year, about half in a so-so year. 300 seeds/oz, ~75/pkt. ABCDE



448 Young's Beauty (105 days) If Autumn Gold's ability to color before maturity doesn't impress you, and its tendency to produce irregularly shaped fruit disturbs you, you may want to switch back to the open-pollinated Young's Beauty. I've decided I prefer the Beauty's 10-15 lb. dark orange-skinned pumpkins in the classic round shape. The grower plans to discontinue Young's. We will try to keep it in commerce; meanwhile why not save your own seed? *Caution: May not ripen in northernmost areas.* 190 seeds/oz, ~45/pkt. ABCDE

452 Connecticut Field (115 days) Big pumpkin for Jack O'Lanterns gets 15-25 lb., sometimes more. *Ripens for us in good years, but often we must pick green and sun cure.* 170 seeds/oz, ~40/pkt. ABCDE

455 Big Max (120 days) Your kids can have fun growing this giant squash. They will need help moving it, though, because it typically weighs 50-100 lb. and measures up to 70" in circumference! It makes a great Jack O'Lantern. Or, if you don't carve it, you can use it as a temporary chair! 80 seeds/oz, ~20/pkt. ABCD; E=$15.00



WINTER SQUASH *Cucurbita inflata*

460-497: A=1/8oz, 75¢; B=1/4oz, $1.25; C=1/2oz, $2.10; D=1oz, $3.60, E=4oz, $13.00.

460 Burpee's Early Acorn Hybrid (84 days) F-1 hybrid. I was very surprised to find out that acorn squash can be this good. Sweeter and drier than other acorns we've tried, Burpee's top-quality fruits get up to 4 lb., yet ripen a week ahead of Table Queen. Saves some space with its large bush habit. 250 seeds/oz, ~30/pkt. ABCDE

466 Sweet Mama (88 days) F-1 hybrid. If you like buttercup squash you should try Sweet Mama, a grey-green drum-shaped buttercup type with rounded shoulders and without the cup. Significantly earlier than Burgess with outstanding sweet flavor. My favorite large winter squash; Mama gains more fans each season. 1979 All-America winner. 190 seeds/oz, ~24/pkt. A

468 Pasta Spaghetti (90 days) F-1 hybrid. Although she's not a real squash fan, Nikos says spaghetti squash is one of the most maligned vegetables. Pasta could change that. Its rich yellow flesh has a flavor that stands on its own and not just as the underpinning for the more traditional toppings. Medium-vined plants set 8" cream-colored 2-2½ lb. fruits which ripen to a light yellow. 190 seeds/oz, ~24/pkt. ABCDE

469 Delicata (100 days) Also known as Sweet Potato squash. Not only are the ivory-colored fruits with dark green stripes lovely, but also the flavor is unsurpassed. Fruits are small, weigh 1-2 lb. and are excellent keepers. We slice them and bake them for a sweet treat. We go through a lot of them each season! We offer a select strain with oval fruits that has proven superior in trials. 170 seeds/oz, ~20/pkt. ABCDE

470 Sweet Dumpling (100 days) We were going to drop this variety until Bud Wallace said they tasted as good as Burgess Buttercup. While we would debate this opinion, we cannot dispute that these elegant ivory-colored fruits with green stripes, shaped somewhat like miniature pumpkins, look so stunning that they sell themselves on the stand. Fruits avg. about 1 lb. Dry orange flesh is tasty only when dead ripe; underripe fruits will be starchy and insipid. 440 seeds/oz, ~55/pkt. ABCDE

471 Baby Blue Hubbard (95 days) We've again found a source for this scaled-down version of Blue Hubbard. Baby Blue's vines are much more compact and its fruits much smaller (about 4-5 lbs.) than its counterpart, without sacrificing much of the quality. ABCDE

472 Red Kuri (92 days) Also called Uchiki Kuri. All agree the spectacular red-orange fruits are among the most attractive squashes. But comments on their flavor have ranged from "the best winter squash" to "glorified zucchini, flavor like water." We think the truth lies somewhere in between. We like the dry flesh of this Japanese squash. Very popular at roadside stands. ABC

474 Sweet Meat (95 days) Westerners have pretty much had this 12-15 lb. slate-grey squash all to themselves, but it is becoming better known in this part of the country. Its dry sweet nutty thick orange flesh is said to gain flavor in storage. Developed in Oregon; now it's coming East. ABCDE

475 Green Hokkaido (98 days) Slate-green fruits with thick yellow very dry flesh preferred by some squash eaters. Ribbed rounded fruits are slightly smaller than buttercups. Yields are sparing. Originally from New England, found real fans in Japan and now returns to us. Seed organically grown. 130 seeds/oz, ~15/pkt. ABCD

478 Luffa (110 days) Also known as the dishrag gourd, dried and used for making bath sponges. *Caution: Luffa requires a long season. Start indoors and culture like melons.* We recommend trellising if you want your squashes to remain straight. 280 seeds/oz, ~35/pkt. ABCDE

PUMPKINS

479 Trickster (92 days) F-1 hybrid. We weren't really looking to add another pie pumpkin to our selection, but Trickster has compelling features for the commercial grower. It matured a full week earlier than Baby Pam, giving us deep orange fruit by late August. Plants are relatively compact, ripening amazingly uniform 3-4 lb. fruits with strong handles. The flesh, though not as deep orange as New England Pie, makes a creditable pie. Trickster's bonus is a copious quantity of seeds which the grower inaccurately touts as naked. They do have light hulls, but still make mighty good eating. Because Trickster has weak hull protection, and our seeds are untreated, avoid planting before the soil has warmed to at least 60°. NEW! ABCDE

480 Jack Be Little (95 days) Tiny ornamental pumpkins weigh only about a half pound. They're great for decorations and a big hit with kids. Flattened, heavily ribbed with vigorous stems. 440 seeds/oz, ~55/pkt. ABCDE

483 Autumn Gold (98 days) F-1 hybrid. Even northernmost growers can vine-ripen medium-sized pumpkins with 1987 All-America winner Autumn Gold. 10-15 lb. fruits are yellow, not green, when immature; ripen to a deep orange. ABCDE

485 Lumina (100 days) A "ghostly" white pumpkin that kids will love. Excellent for both carving and painting, the fruit are 8-10" high and average 12 lbs, though size will vary with growing conditions. As long as it is kept away from frost, Lumina stores well, so a face painted on its smooth surface will last for weeks instead of days. Under stress, the fruit may develop blue patches. After disappointing us in 1994, more spooks came out of the closet to try Lumina in '95. 100 seeds/oz, ~12/pkt. ABCDE

488 Rouge Vif d'Étampes (105 days) This spectacular French heirloom turns the pumpkin patch into a glowing blaze with its deeply ridged burnt-orange to red fruits. Pumpkins are flat, quite variable in size, ranging from about 7 lb. to upwards of 30 lb. and make great decorative Jack O'Lanterns. Kids are really intrigued by their color. Strictly speaking, this is a squash, not a pumpkin, and the flesh is not as deep orange or as flavorful as that of the pie pumpkins. 100 seeds/oz, ~12/pkt. ABCDE

495 Lady Godiva (110 days) The best naked-seeded pumpkin, 8-12 lb. fruits loaded with totally hulless seeds. I grew these in the 70s but had not been able to find a source for years until Will Bonsall offered to grow us an organic seed crop. The flesh of its striped fruits is not good enough to be edible. Do not plant before soil temperature reaches 60°. Replaces Triple Treat. NEW! ABCDE

497 Howden (115 days) For years commercial growers have asked us to list Howden, claiming that it is superior to Connecticut Field. We agreed, but could not find a source until this year. Howden is more symmetrical than Field (far less likely to set lopsided fruit), with hard ridged skin and thick flesh. Long considered the standard by which large round Jack O'Lanterns are measured. Replaces Frosty. NEW! ABCDE

Frugalis and *inflata* are fictitious inventions of our imaginative copywriter. For the seed-saver, the real botanical names are:

Cucurbita maxima: Buttercup, Blue Hubbard, Big Max, Red Kuri, Sweet Meat, Green Hokkaido, Rouge Vif d'Étampes.

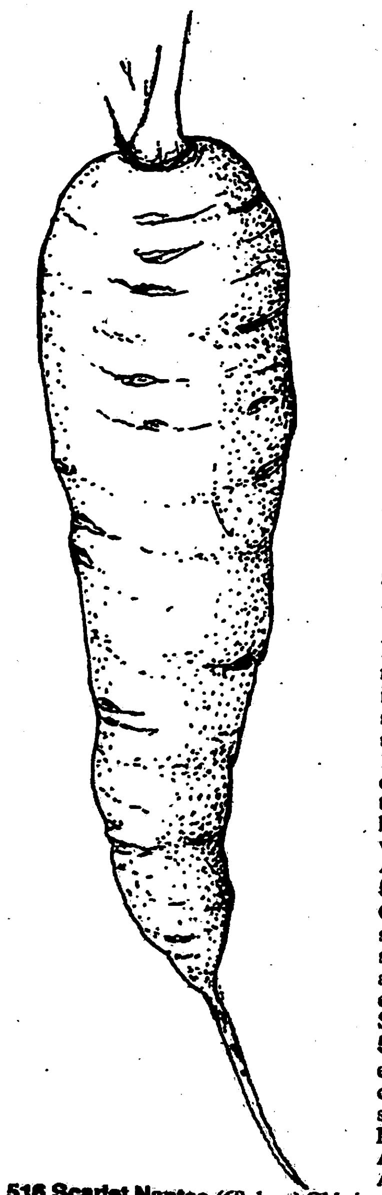
C. moschata: Butternut.

C. pepo: Acorn, Spaghetti, Delicata, Sweet Dumpling, all summer squashes, true pumpkins, ornamental gourds.

Lagenaria siceraria: Bottle Gourd.

Luffa ægyptiaca: Luffa.

CARROTS



1/8 oz packet sows 35 ft; 1 oz 280 ft. Very hardy. Early carrots can be sown by late April. Can take up to 3 weeks to germinate; keep rows from drying out for faster emergence. Sow carrots for winter storage in mid-late June. Thinning is critical: At 3" high thin to 1/2" apart, at 6" thin again to 1" apart. Fresh carrots are among the ten foods with the greatest increase in per capita consumption from 1978-1988. We now have separate spring and fall carrot plots and three annual blind taste tests for carrots—in spring, fall and late winter. We've discovered that we need to select separate varieties suitable for each season as most have a particular time when their flavor is best. See also #1027.

502-523: A=1/8oz, 75¢; B=1/2oz, $2.10; C=1oz, $3.40; D=4oz, $10.00, E=1lb, $27.00, except where noted.

525-528: A=1g, 75¢; B=3g, $2.10; C=6g, $3.40; D=24g, $10.00, E=120g, $27.00.

502 Thumbelina (52 days) This 1992 All-America winner from Petoseed was the best tasting and most uniform of the Parisian types in our trial. Parisian carrots are suitable for even the heaviest clay soils because they make round balls 1½" in diameter. They mature very early and are best harvested when they are young and tender. They have a creamy texture when cooked, which is the best way to eat them. ABC

506 Kinko 6 inch (55 days) This Chantenay type is a good early season choice. Conical, stump-rooted carrots of deep color and sweet flavor. Good cold soil emergence. Staffer George Stewart's favorite carrot. ABCD

508 Minicor (55 days) Another excellent choice for 1st baby carrots of summer. So named for its very small cores. Very slender roots 6-7" long, of exceptionally sweet flavor. Amsterdam/baby Nantes type. ABCDE

516 Scarlet Nantes (68 days) Old-time favorite Nantes variety with bright orange roots averaging 6-7". ABC; D=$7.00, E=$14.00

518 Nantes Fancy (68 days) A classy open-pollinated Nantes. Roots 7" long with exceptionally good color, flavor. Very uniform. Excellent keeper. Has been our most popular carrot for years. ABCDE

520 Red Cored Chantenay (70 days) This old heirloom variety produces 5-7" thick red-orange roots which we found to have excellent carroty flavor in our September taste tests. ABC; D=$7.00, E=$14.00

521 Canada Gold (73 days) F-1 hybrid. Don't be put off by its Imperator parentage. Gold gets its long tapered look from Imperator, but its rich flavor from the Nantes side of the family. You won't find a tastier carrot in fall or coming out of winter storage. Gold is crisp and carroty with a slender uniform shape that fills to the tip. Its 9" roots can be hard to pull. Gets my vote for Fedco's most underappreciated cultivar, more of you should try it. ABCDE

523 Danvers 126 (75 days) Old-time open-pollinated variety is a tasty fall and storage carrot. Orange red roots 7-7½" long, 2-2½" across taper to a blunt end. Salzer's offered an ounce of seed for a dime and a pound for a dollar in 1927. ABC; D=$7.00, E=$14.00

525-528: A=1g, 75¢; B=3g, $2.10; C=6g, $3.40; D=24g, $10.00, E=120g, $27.00.

525 Mokum (48 days) F-1 hybrid. Although we once dropped Mokum, we've since realized that its earliness, slenderness, and sweetness more than offset its flaws. Taste is what Mokum is all about. It won our summer taste tests in 1991, 1993 and 1994. Amazingly, it also came out on top in our fall 1993 test. Mokum is a blunt Amsterdam type which sizes extremely quickly but with short weak tops. Because roots will push out of the ground and develop green shoulders, it should be harvested young. Although Estelle is a more versatile full-season carrot, I make succession plantings of Mokum because it tastes so good as a young carrot. Always the first to disappear from our spring patch. ABCD

527 Estelle (56 days) F-1 hybrid. Estelle may be unsurpassed as a full-season home garden carrot. It is among the earliest to size in the spring. It won our July, 1989, taste test and retained enough flavor to still come in 2nd in September. Its good interior color and sweet Nantes flavor have won raves. Its flavor has not come through so well during recent dry summers so that we think it would benefit from watering during drought. ABCDE

528 Nelson (56 days) F-1 hybrid. Replaced Clarion which was discontinued by the grower. Though it is a bit shorter than Clarion and not quite as crisp, this handsome Nantes is even more sweet and carroty. Smooth and uniform, 6-7", with deep orange color. Strong tops make it suitable for summer bunching. Widely grown in Europe; the seed comes from Bejo in Holland. ABCD

OTHER ROOTS

532-574: A=1/8oz, 45¢; B=1/2oz, 80¢; C=1oz, $1.30; D=4oz, $3.20, E=1lb, $5.50, except where noted.

BEETS

1/8 oz packet sows 20 ft, 1 oz about 180 ft. Hardy. Can be sown almost as soon as ground can be worked. Thin for use as greens. Lutz variety must be thinned to 4" apart, others require less rigorous thinning.

532 Early Wonder Tall Top (48 days) Quick emergence in cold soil and attractive purple tops make this the one to grow for early beet greens and bunching beets. In 1995, we sold 80 one-pounders to market growers and over 1100 A and B size packets to home gardeners. ABCDE

534 Red Ace (50 days) F-1 hybrid. Sweet early season beets. Market growers will really go for its uniformity and perfect shape. Very similar to Early Wonder but more refined. Purple tops. AB

536 Chioggia (55 days) Staffer Bernice Nadler's favorite because "in addition to having good sweet beet flavor, they are beautiful when sliced open." This Italian home garden type attracts attention in the kitchen with its alternating interior rings of pink and white. Noteworthy also for its light red exterior color, green tops and exceptional sweetness. Almost as popular as Early Wonder. A

537 Burpee's Golden (55 days) Gains in popularity each year and now a market specialty. Roots are golden instead of red, very sweet, and do not bleed like red beets. A

539 Formanova (56 days) Also known as Forono. Customers demanded its return to our list. Cylindrical beet grows 6" long. A good pickling or processing beet. ABCD

542 Lutz Green Leaf (60 days) Also known as Winter Keeper, the best one to grow for winter storage. Fruits remain sweet even when large. Tops are glossy green without any purple. For good-size roots thin to 4" apart. For a special sweet treat, try baking big ones for about an hour. ABCD

544 Detroit Dark Red Medium Top (60 days) Standard late variety for home gardeners and canners. Globular smooth uniform roots with tender ox-blood red flesh. Variety dates back to 1892. ABCDE

PARSNIPS

1/8 oz packet sows 25 ft, 1 oz about 200 ft. Parsnips taste sweeter after overwintering—a real spring treat! Seed is short lived; if you are planning to use old seed, germ test in paper towels before sowing.

547 Harris Model (120 days) Sweet-flavored smooth tapered roots average 10". For better performance, prepare raised beds, especially in heavy soils. ABCDE

RADISHES

1/8 oz packet sows 15 ft, 1 oz 100 ft. Hardy. Can be sown early. Easy to grow, quick to ripen and go by; make succession plantings. Daikon radishes take longer to maturity, hold longer, require only 1 planting.

550 Cherry Belle (25 days) A good smooth red-skinned bunching radish making uniform balls 3/4" across with firm white flesh. 1949 AAS. ABCDE

552 Easter Egg (25 days) Kids love this fascinating radish which comes in shades of pink, purple, red, violet and white. Good even large. Our most popular radish. ABCD

554 Champion (25 days) Smooth scarlet roots with firm mild flesh grow quickly to edible size. 1957 AAS. ABCDE

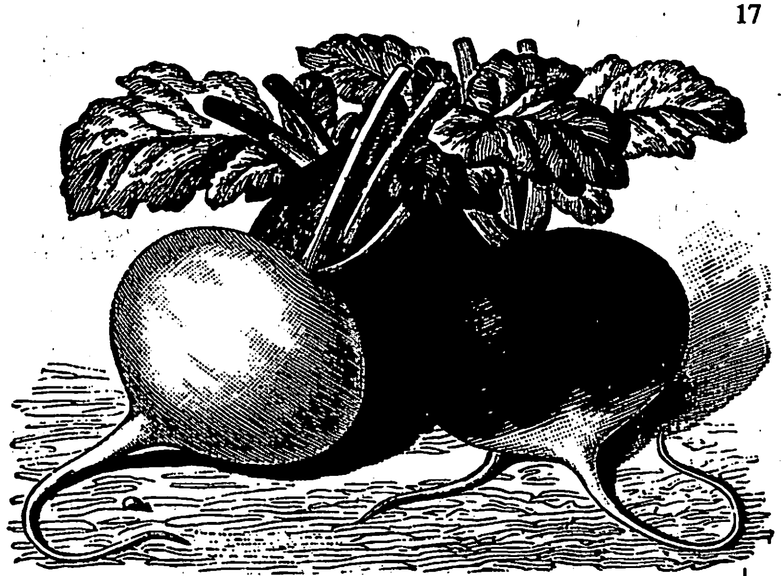
557 French Breakfast (26 days) Medium-length scarlet root with a white tip. An old favorite, though I don't consider them breakfast food! ABCDE

560 White Icicle (30 days) Q: When is an icicle hot? A: When it's a White Icicle Radish! Firm tender all-white roots for the home garden. ABCDE

562 Omny Daikon (65 days) F-1 hybrid. "Daikon" means "big root" in Japanese. According to Takii, more acreage is planted to daikon than any other vegetable crop in Japan. Omny is a refined daikon for market growers. Roots are fatter, shorter and have a classier appearance than Tokinashi. They grow vigorously in cool soil and are very slow to bolt. A=1½ gram

SCORZONERA

566 Scorzonera (120 days) This long narrow dark-skinned white-fleshed root has an unprepossessing appearance, yet it is prized by gourmet cooks in Europe who call it the oyster plant for its distinctive flavor and use it in place of the potato in haute cuisine. Has a firm delightful texture almost like pudding, but is not sweet like many root vegetables. Much of the flavor resides in the dark skin which should not be peeled before cooking. Culture like parsnips, overwintering in the field and pulling as needed. Has only limited storage in root cellars. NEW! ABC



RUTABAGAS & TURNIPS

1/8 oz packet sows almost 40 ft, 1 oz about 400 ft. Hardy members of Cabbage family. Thinning is critical for full-sized roots.

568 American Purple Top Rutabaga (95 days) Also called Swede Turnip or Canadian Turnip. Purple-top roots with pale yellow flesh. Excellent uniformity; good for storage. ABCDE

571 Purple Top White Globe Turnip (50 days) Popular variety with purple tops and white bottoms and white flesh. ABCDE

574 Gilfeather® Turnip (85 days) An heirloom variety either developed or discovered by John Gilfeather (1865-1944) of Wardsboro, Vermont, and salvaged by market growers William and Mary Lou Schmidt. Gilfeather is sweeter and later to mature than other turnips, and does not get woody even at softball size. Tastes better after frost. A=1½ gram, sows almost 20'.

ALIMENTARY ALLIA

1/16 oz packet about 450-600 seeds, 1 oz 7,000-10,000. Start indoors in Feb. or March and transplant out in May. Set leeks 6-12" apart, onions 4-6," scallions 3-4". Harvest onions after tops fall, field cure about 10 days. Onions survive light frosts. Leeks have become a mainstay in our kitchens throughout the fall. Early leeks have tall shanks above ground and should be harvested before severe frosts. Hardier leeks have broader, shorter shanks mostly below ground and will hold till November. Siegfried, our hardiest leek, will withstand our severe winters provided it is hilled and mulched.

577-598: A=1/16oz, 70¢; B=1/8oz, $1.10; C=1/2oz, $3.00; D=1oz, $3.50, E=4oz, $6.50, except where noted.

LEEKS AND SCALLIONS

577 King Richard Leek (75 days) King Richard is noted for its elegant long thick delicately-flavored stalks. It is ready in late August, will withstand light frosts, but should be harvested before the really cold nights. ABC; D=$5.00, E=$19.00

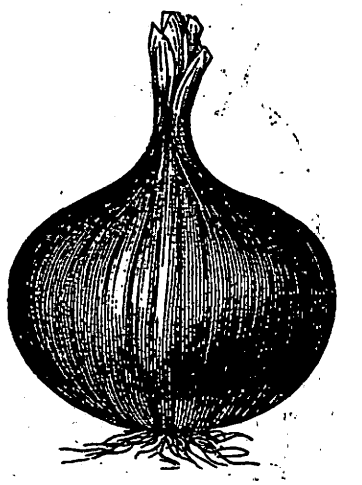
578 Imperial Leek (85 days) This beautiful Danish leek attracted our attention in September. Its shaft combines impressive stoutness with good length, for a large edible area on each plant. It is rated by our supplier as a medium-early autumn leek. It holds for us until mid-October when the nights get really frosty. ABC; D=$5.00, E=$19.00

580 Siegfried Leek (120 days) Cometh April, the snows recede, give way to mud, the squashes turn to squish, potatoes have eyes not for your stomach, the pleasures of stored root and cole crops pale and you crave something fresh. Here's a truly delectable springtime treat! A leek which often withstands the rigors of winter and awaits your springtime appetite. Siegfried makes most of the growth that matters below ground where it is protected from the cold. You will get about 4 inches of thick stalk. After you peel off the outer layer or two you will most likely find Siegfried looks as good as any fall leek. About 80% in our trial withstood the harsh winter of 93-94. We were not so fortunate after the mild '94-95 winter when alternate freezing and thawing heaved up the roots. We suggest hilling and mulching your leeks after the ground freezes to improve your odds. ABC; D=$5.00, E=$19.00

581 Red Beard Scallion (60 days) A vigorous crispy colorful scallion from Japan. Outer shaft develops bright red color in cool weather. Underneath flesh is white. In our 1993 trial we were disappointed that some scallions did not develop any red color and others got only a thin layer of light red. We suspect the lack of red was due to our late May transplanting date and the warm, dry summer. ABC; D=$5.00, E=$19.00

582 Evergreen Hardy White Scallion (65 days) Also known as Nebuka. Hardy variety can be overwintered even in severe climates for a real April treat. ABCDE

ONIONS



584 Barletta Mini (70 days) Forms 1½" silky white bulbs ripening around the same time as peas. ABCD

587 Early Yellow Globe (100 days) We have finally found a reliable supplier in the unlikely guise of our principal sweet corn source, Crookham. Yes, this medium-hard yellow onion with thin neck averaging 2½-3" across suitable for storage till midwinter can be had from Fedco. ABCDE

589 Southport White Globe (100 days) Globular medium-sized bulbs with delicate snowy scales will keep through first part of winter. ABCDE

590 Redman (101 days) Provides good yields of uniform, firm, large size red onions that store better than Southport. ABCD

591 Copra (104 days) F-1 hybrid. Hard medium-sized storage onions with blocky round shapes and thin necks. Very popular among commercial growers, who bought 247 1/2-ouncers in 1995. We now offer a 1-ounce size. Unfortunately, all Copra seed comes from one source, which delivers late some years. If seed should again arrive late, please be patient, we will ship at the earliest opportunity. AB; C=$3.80, D=$7.50

593 Southport Red Globe (105 days) Purple-red round bulbs will store 4-6 months under proper conditions. Heirloom variety offered by Olds in 1915. ABCDE

595 Ailsa Craig (110 days) How much potential energy in a seed? Jason Kafka of Checkerberry Farm in Brownville grew 5,000 lbs. of onions from 1½ oz. of Ailsa Craig seed. That's a multiplication of better than 50,000 to one! We're not exaggerating when we talk about 1½-3 lb. onions from this variety—Jason grew hundreds in that range. This is the onion to grow to enter in the Exhibition Hall of your county fair. The enormous round globes are sweet, mildly pungent and will store a short while. A

596 Sweet Sandwich (110 days) F-1 hybrid. Our choice for those customers who asked for a milder storage onion. As they store, the large onions mellow. ABC; D=$5.00

597 Mambo (115 days) F-1 hybrid. Several years ago we were entertained at Common Ground Fair by a wonderful rhythm band called PaPa Loves Mambo which had a really driving energy that kicked out the jams. Well, here we have an onion called Mambo which really knows how to get moving and kick out a few jams in your garden. We think PaPa would like this Mambo, too, because it gets growing fast even if it isn't started till April, and makes a very impressive 3-4" bulb if given sufficient space. Moreover, if properly cured it develops a deep red interior color and it is a better keeper than any other red onion we've tried. Mambo is semi-sweet, suitable for salads and cooking, but not as pungent as the band. Note: We recommend starting earlier than April for optimal results. Expensive seed. A

598 Walla Walla Sweet Spanish (125 days) This onion became famous in the Pacific Northwest for its juicy, sweet flavor. In the warm climate of Walla Walla, Washington, it can be wintered over. In our harsher climate it must be sown in the spring for fall harvest. Large onions are known for their mildness as soon as they come out of the ground. They will not store. ABCD; E=$12.00

SPINACH

Packet sows 45 ft, 1 oz plants 150-200 ft. Very hardy. Must be planted as soon as the ground can be worked in the spring to avoid early bolting. For fall crop try late Jul-Aug sowing; to overwinter, sow late Aug-Sept. Heavy nitrogen requirements, but avoid applying high-nitrogen fertilizers shortly before harvest to prevent high nitrate levels in the leaves. Hint: Pick large leaves often for heavier production.

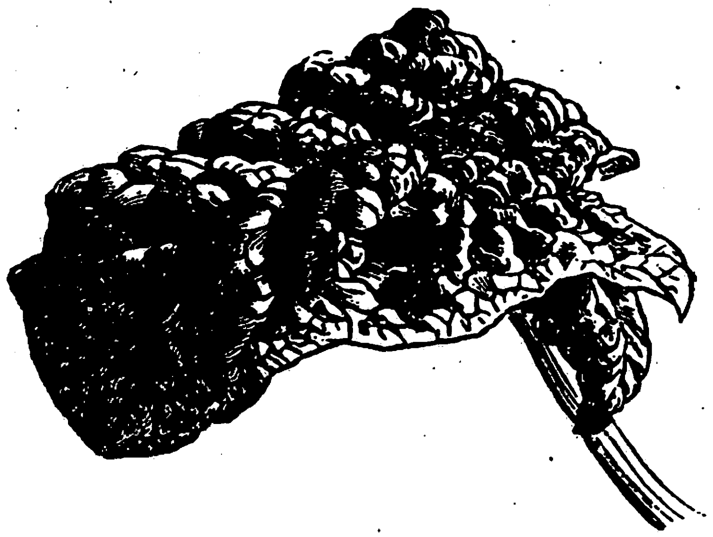
600-614: A=¼oz, 55¢; B=½oz, 90¢; C=1oz, $1.40; D=4oz, $3.00, E=1lb, $7.00, except where noted.

600 Indian Summer (39 days) F-1 hybrid. A high-yielding dark-green spinach with partly crinkled leaves. Seems to require warmer soil than Long Standing Bloomsdale, but is much more bolt-resistant in warm weather. ABCDE

604 Winter Bloomsdale (42 days) Dark-green savoyed variety recommended for early spring and fall plantings because of tolerance to cold temperatures. ABCDE

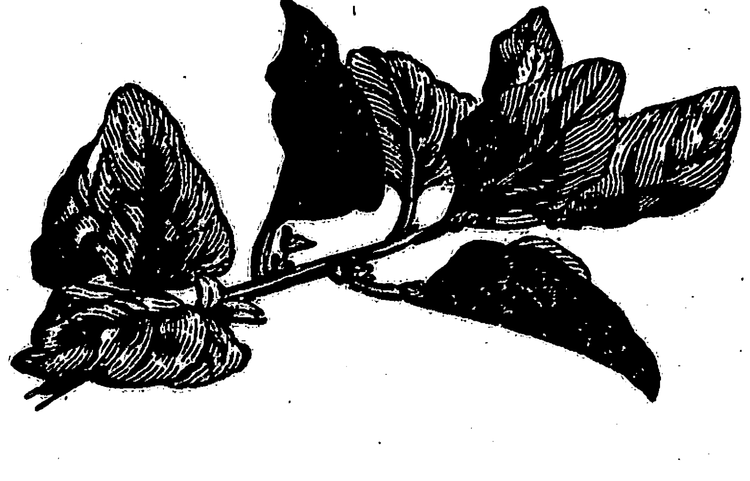
606 Long Standing Bloomsdale (42 days) The standard crinkly leaved spinach. Very good cold soil emergence. Recent hybrids surpass it in production and bolt resistance. David Landreth, founder of the Landreth Seed Company, since 1784 the oldest continuous seed dealership in the US, developed the original Bloomsdale Spinach, forerunner of this type. ABCD; E=$4.00

610 Tyee (44 days) F-1 hybrid. Seed crops for Tyee, long our favorite crinkly leaved variety, have been short the last two years. We've managed to procure 52 lbs. of seed, enough to supply home gardeners, but not commercial growers. Tyee outperforms other savoyed types both in yields and ability to stand without bolting. Upright habit. BACK! ABC



612 Residane (45 days) F-1 hybrid. Smooth-leaved varieties are preferred by chefs and other folks who cook a lot because they are much easier to clean than savoyed types. Residane is a smooth-leaved spinach which sports long oval leaves with full spinach flavor, sweet with a little zip. Has a productive upright plant habit with bolt-resistance rivaling Tyee. Good for the main crop, also worth a try for overwintering. Discovered in Roberta Bunker's 1993 trial, an instant best-seller in 1994, and again in 1995 when we sold over 100# of seed. ABCDE

614 New Zealand Spinach (52 days) Also known as Tetragone. Don't let the name fool you. This is not a true spinach. Doesn't look like one or taste like one. But it stands through the hot summer when regular spinach bolts, and some find it an acceptable substitute. Will withstand frosts down to the low 20s. Nut-like seeds are customarily slow poor germinators. Be patient and don't give up too soon. Only a few plants are needed to fill in your patch. ABCDE



LETTUCE BEGIN

1 gram packet sows 25 ft; 2 grams 50 ft; 1 oz 500-700 ft. May be started indoors in March and at regular intervals thereafter, or sowed outdoors as soon as ground can be worked. Most varieties won't germinate at temperatures above 75°. Hardy. All save icebergs tolerate heavy frost. Grow best in cool weather, many kinds suffer bottom rot and tipburn in heat; select summer varieties carefully. Sow every 2 weeks for continuous supply. Lettuce will not head unless thinned frequently & ruthlessly to final distance of 1'. Heavy nitrogen feeders. Lettuces are leaf types except where specified. Early in this century people discovered that lettuce can be eaten raw. Now people are rediscovering cooked lettuce. Try it in soups or wilted over sautéed onions. Our extensive lettuce trial is always a colorful early summer highlight at Shooting Star Farm. I had 110 varieties, including commercial varieties from Italy, France and Switzerland as well as heirlooms from SSE curator M. Schultz' collection, in 1994. This year, while I cut back to a mere 71, Mark & Paula Fulford at Teltane Farm also tested many of the same varieties. We are looking for experienced lettuce-seed growers.

616-637: A=2g, 50¢; B=4g, 80¢; C=14g, $1.40, D=28g, $2.20, E=112g, $4.50, except where noted.

616 Black Seeded Simpson (42 days) The earliest and most popular looseleaf variety. Large loose crumpled juicy light-green leaves. Does not stand heat well; sow early as the ground can be worked. Heirloom variety goes back to 1880. ABCDE

617 Salad Bowl (46 days) Bright-green notched leaves form compact rosette. Stands hot weather better than Black Seeded Simpson. 1952 All-America winner. ABCDE

618 Red Salad Bowl (46 days) Compact rosettes of spectacular bronze-red oakleaves. Has become one of our most popular lettuces. We ordered 100 pounds of seed for 1995, and another 50 for 1996. ABCDE

620 Tom Thumb Baby Bibb (46 days) One-salad lettuce. Miniature butterhead type which makes a small tightly bunched head early. Outer leaves light-medium green, centers creamy white. Very attractive for early markets. According to Seeds of Change®, Tom Thumb, once known as Loo's Tennis Ball, is the oldest American lettuce variety still extant, dating back to at least 1853. ABCDE

622 Bronze Mignonette Baby Bibb (46 days) A small ruffled bronze-tinged butterhead that captivated me in the 1992 trials. Because Mignonette is only slightly larger than Tom Thumb, it is ideal for baby vegetable enthusiasts. ABCDE

624 Prizehead (48 days) Crinkly outer leaves tinged with red. Superior flavor. Very popular market type. Bolts in heat. ABCDE

625 Red Sails (49 days) Petoseed's 1985 All-America winner has become almost synonymous with red leaf lettuce. Red Sails is delicious, slow to become bitter or to bolt even in heat, and a most attractive large plant with splashes of purplish-red leaves. Unfortunately, it has had short crops each of the last two years. We've ordered 100 lbs of seed for 1996—which would be way more than ample to meet our needs—but for best insurance, order early. ABCD; E=$7.00

627 Buttercrunch Bibb (50 days) A 1963 All-America selection. Dark-green outer leaves with creamy center heart. Slow to bolt. Along with Red Sails and Red Salad Bowl, our best-selling lettuce. ABCDE

630 Batavia Blonde #6 (55 days) This Danish variety is unusually lovely with its fringed blonde leaves. Better yet, it holds a long time, doesn't get bitter, and tastes good. ABCD; E=$6.00

632 Kagraner Sommer Bibb (58 days) Makes elegant pale-green heads of exceptional quality. Its real claim to fame is its reluctance to bolt even in midsummer heat. ABCDE

634 Winter Density Bibb/Romaine (60 days) Is it a bibb lettuce or a romaine? Doesn't matter, either way it's one of Gene's favorites, as the eating quality is superb. Starts out looking like a bibb with dark green leaves. Wrapper leaves fold tightly, forms a head like a romaine when mature. ABCDE

637 Parris Island Cos Romaine (68 days) The standard market romaine. Upright heads 8-9" tall self-fold to form compact head. Interior greenish-white. Resistant to tipburn and bolting even in heat. ABCDE

LETTUCE CONTINUE

640-693: A=1g, 75¢; B=2g, $1.30; C=4g, $2.20, D=14g, $5.50, E=28g, $9.50, except where noted.

640 Green Ice (45 days) Customers asked us to list Burpee's well-known variety. This shiny crinkly looseleaf with fringed leaf margins is firm and crunchy in salads. Slow to bolt, but gets tough in the centers. ABCDE

643 Brunia Oakleaf (46 days) Vilmorin's bronze oakleaf type is offered as a replacement for Cocarde, which it resembles. Its mixture of rusty and green colors will stand out in any lettuce patch. ABC; D=$7.50, E=$14.00

645 Red Oakleaf (46 days) Our strain was identical to #618 Red Salad Bowl. Please order Red Salad Bowl.

646 Cracoviensis (47 days) We've enjoyed a rich correspondence with Seed Savers lettuce curator M. Schultz, who several years back sent us an incredible collection of heirloom lettuces to trial. Of the more than 100 varieties, Cracoviensis proved to be my absolute favorite, unlike any others in size, shape or colors. Cracoviensis is where the red meets the green, making a dazzling twisting rosette with heavy purple accenting, especially towards the center. Plants are fast growing and very large. Although they are relatively rapid bolters, they have a tender buttery flavor without bitterness that persists even after they bolt. We believe Cracoviensis has never before been offered commercially. Seed organically grown at Shooting Star Farm. Limited supply, limit one packet per household, order early. Seed germinates at 63%, below federal standard, extra seed added. NEW!

647 Simpson Elite (48 days) Despite its name, similar size and light green color, Simpson Elite is a succession variety rather than a replacement for Black Seeded Simpson. Elite doesn't germinate as well in cold soil, or grow as quickly as BSS, but way surpasses the 115-year-old heirloom in its ability to stand heat without bolting. With Elite, you can extend the season by at least 2-3 weeks. ABCDE

648 Red Deer Tongue (48 days) Heirlooms Green and Red Deer Tongue have long been favorites in our trials and we have made plans to introduce both when we could find sufficient seed. At last we have the red, although we still are unable to offer the green. Thick-textured pointy leaves radiating from compact centers are Deer Tongue's hallmark. Bright green leaves with red edges are imbued with a rich nutty flavor that will make you come back for more. Withstands heat fairly well. NEW! ABCDE

649 Royal Oakleaf (50 days) The most attractive green oakleaf, recommended for market growers. Darker, larger and fancier than other green oakleaf types. ABCDE

650 Continuity Bibb (50 days) Also known as Crisp as Ice. Returns after five year's absence from our list. This strain, from Peace Seeds, is as close to the original as we could find of this striking purplish-red tinged butterhead. More compact than Merveille de Quatre Saisons and much more bolt resistant. BACK! ABCDE

654 Sierra Batavian (50 days) This red-tinged French Batavian is renowned for its extraordinary seedling vigor, resistance to tipburn and reluctance to bolt even in midsummer heat. Has compact upright form. A favorite among market growers, it especially stands out in late July when others have rotted or bolted. ABC; D=$7.50, E=$14.00

656 Waldmann's (50 days) Large handsome crinkly leaved heads of bright green lettuce. The most attractive green leaf Grand Rapids type for market. We prefer its appearance and texture to that of Green Ice, but admit that it is the more bitter of the two in heat. ABCDE

657 Grazer Krauthäupti Batavian (50 days) Krauthäupti means an herb or plant with a head. Virtually identical to the Cybele Lettuce we offered in 1993, this Swiss Batavian forms a soft green head with frilly savoyed leaves tinged purple at their ends. Lighter than Sierra or Canasta; almost equally slow to bolt. Europeans prefer the richer flavor of Batavian lettuces like Grazer to blander Iceberg types. One of our most underappreciated cultivars; it's yummy! ABC; D=$7.50, E=$14.00

659 New Red Fire (51 days) Offered as a substitute for Red Sails in 1992, Fire won a place in its own right for its deserved popularity with commercial growers. Fire has Sails' characteristic ruffled leaves, similar though slightly lighter coloration, and good size. Best of all, it has been absolutely the last to bolt in our lettuce patch, lasting as late as July 29! Seed from Japan. ABCDE

662 Rossimo (52 days) Even in a trial with 110 types of lettuce in variegated colors, the brilliant rich cherry-red hue of its crinkly leaved open head really stood out! Grows slowly but tolerates heat fairly well. Rossimo is Royal Red's look-alike twin and replacement. Spellbinding with its terrific bright red color in late June and early July. ABCDE

665 Red Riding Hood Butterhead (53 days) A lovely butterhead with deeper red color and much better bolt resistance than Merveille des Quatre Saisons. Veined leaves; large, elegant heads. Close kin to Continuity. ABCDE

666 Slobolt (53 days) Slow growth in its early stages is the key to Slobolt's success as a summer lettuce. A Grand Rapids type with much paler green leaves than Waldmann's, Slobolt will hold well into July without bolting. NEW! ABCDE

668 Pirat Butterhead (55 days) Elegant bronzed large butterhead always looks good in the trial. Has a delicious smooth taste, and holds well except in prolonged wet spells. Pirat descended from Merveille des Quatres Saisons but is much more bolt resistant. Seed organically grown. ABCDE

669 Sweet Valentine Butterhead (56 days) A lettuce fit for a sweetheart, Valentine combines magnificent beauty with a mild, sweet taste. Beginning as a large spreading bronzed butterhead with rounded veined leaves, Valentine evolves into a romaine shape. Was very slow to bolt even in our hot dry 1995 conditions. NEW! ABCDE

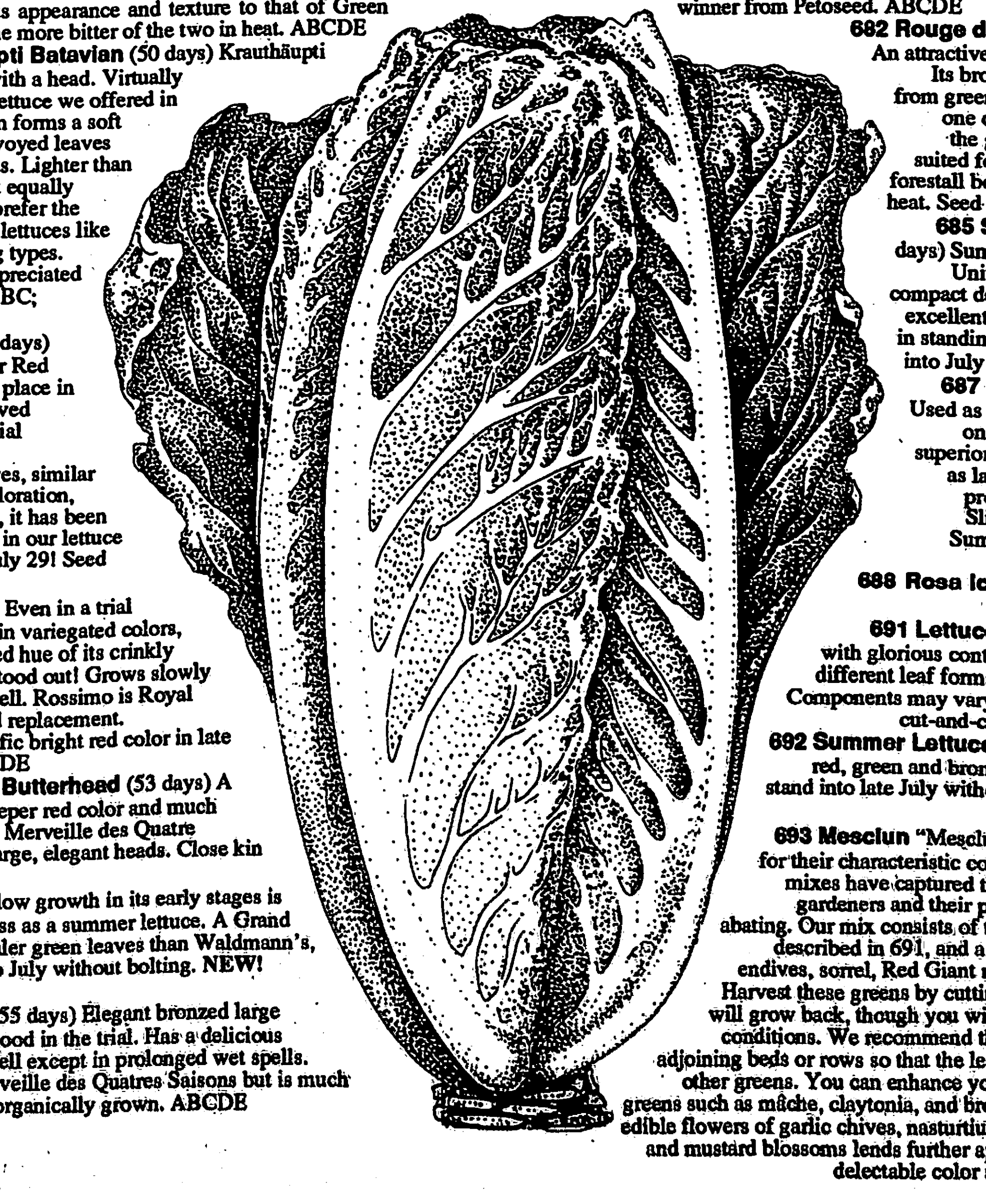
670 Reine des Glaces Batavian (57 days) Also known as Ice Queen. We have located an Italian source for this scrumptious Batavian, which, in keeping with its type, makes a soft "head." Green convoluted rosettes with intricately toothed leaves lend Reine its distinctive beauty. Stands heat fairly well. ABCDE

671 Nancy Butterhead (58 days) Growers will be interested in this elegant butterhead which makes extra-large very tight heads. Tasty and holds well for this type. We've tried a lot of fancy butterheads and still think Nancy's the best. ABC; D=$7.50, E=$14.00

674 Lollo Rossa Cutting (58 days) A unique type of lettuce generally harvested by snipping leaves instead of taking the whole plant. Frizzy foliage is light red on top, light green at base, making for a stunning contrast. Very cold hardy. Can be used to accent or garnish salads, or as an ornamental. Quite the rage in gourmet restaurants; a mainstay of our mesclun salads. We trialed four varieties of Lollo in 1994, and this Swiss strain was the best. Although not quite as colorful as several others, it had a milder, less bitter taste, and was much slower to bolt. We welcome bulk inquiries. ABC; D=$7.50, E=$14.00

677 Majestic Red Romaine (60 days) Its fancy savoyed rich bronze-red leaves make it a real stunner. Cylindrical "head" has somewhat spreading habit. One of the slowest-bolting romaines in our trial; and much in demand in recent years. ABCDE

681 Plato II Romaine (65 days) Replaced Cosmo. A lettuce fit for a philosopher-king, Plato has all the elegance of the spreading open-habit romaine without its predecessor's annoying tendency to tipburn in heat. Plato sets the standard for sweet taste in romaine lettuce, holding its quality without bitterness or bolting well into the summer. Its dark green slightly ruffled heavily veined leaves are attractive in any plot. A real winner from Petoseed. ABCDE



682 Rouge d'Hiver Romaine (65 days) An attractive European heirloom lettuce. Its broad flat leaves range in color from green to bronze to red, making it one of the most striking plants in the garden. Very delicious. Best suited for early crops; keep moist to forestall bolting. Turns bitter in excess heat. Seed organically grown. ABCDE

685 Summertime Iceberg (70 days) Summertime is an Oregon State University release with uniform compact dense medium-sized heads of excellent flavor that are without peer in standing heat. Harvest iceberg well into July with Summertime. ABCDE

687 Empire Iceberg (72 days) Used as a substitute for King Crown on our 1987 order, we found it superior in our grow-out. Heads not as large as King Crown, but less prone to center rot or softness. Slightly larger than Ithaca and Summertime, heads not as firm. ABCDE

688 Rosa Iceberg (74 days) *Sorry, no seed available in 1996.*

691 Lettuce Mix A mixture of lettuces with glorious contrasts of reds and greens and different leaf forms to create a beautiful patch. Components may vary, but all will be suitable for cut-and-come-again culture. ABCDE

692 Summer Lettuce Mix A special selection of red, green and bronze lettuce varieties that will stand into late July without bolting. ABC; D=$7.50, E=$14.00

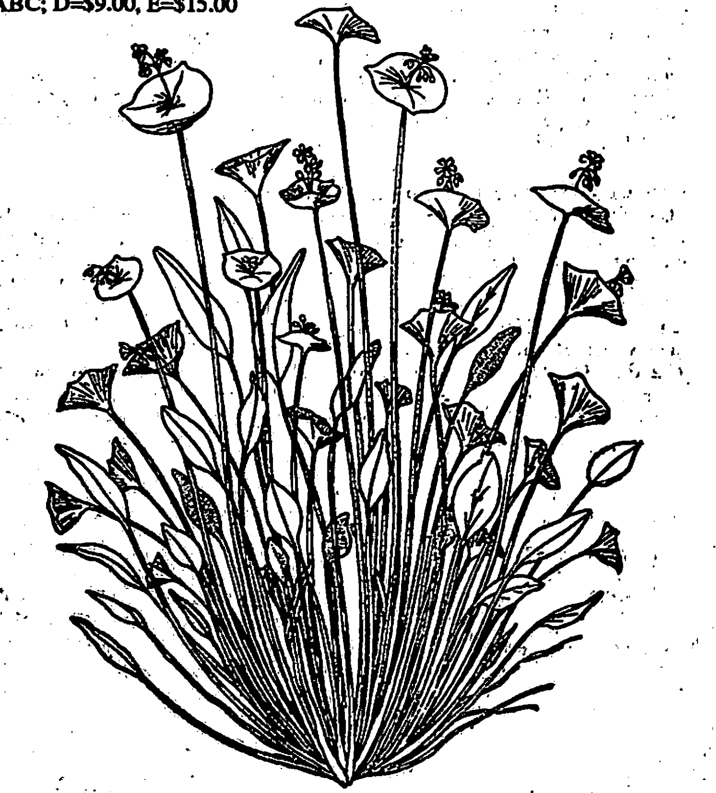
693 Mesclun "Mesclun" is a term from Provence for their characteristic country salad mixtures. These mixes have captured the imaginations of stateside gardeners and their popularity shows no signs of abating. Our mix consists of two packets: the lettuce mix described in 691, and a mixture of mizuna, chervil, endives, sorrel, Red Giant mustard, arugula, and tatsoi. Harvest these greens by cutting them with scissors. They will grow back, though you will need to water them in dry conditions. We recommend that you plant each packet in adjoining beds or rows so that the lettuces won't overwhelm the other greens. You can enhance your mesclun by adding other greens such as mâche, claytonia, and bronze fennel. The addition of edible flowers of garlic chives, nasturtiums, gem marigolds, borage, and mustard blossoms lends further appeal to the mix by creating delectable color and taste contrasts. ABCDE

EXOTIC GREENS

701-707: A=1/2g, $1.10; B=1g, $2.00; C=2g, $3.50; D=8g, $13.50, E=16g, except where noted.

Claytonia: Half gram packet about 800 seeds; 45,000 seeds per oz. Direct seed in spring, 24 per ft. Thin to 3" apart.

701 Claytonia (40 days) *Montia perfoliata* Also known as Winter Purslane and Miner's Lettuce, it was the green of choice of the '49ers. Until recently, seed for this intriguing salad plant has been expensive and hard to find. Claytonia's small heart-shaped leaves have a mild but succulent taste which we found increasingly attractive in our 1991 trial. We now add it regularly to our mesclun. Responds to cut-and-come-again culture and tolerates moderate frosts. For best quality, make at least one succession planting. ABC; D=$9.00, E=$15.00



Purslane: Half gram packet about 1200 seeds; 70,000 seeds per oz. Direct seed in spring, after danger of frost is past. Thin to 5" apart.

703 Goldgelber Purslane (50 days) *Portulaca oleracea* var. *sativa* Related to the common garden weed, but more erect and not crawly. Goldgelber has a succulent texture with a mildly acerbic flavor which makes it an ideal addition to mesclun. Purslane leaves have more vitamin C than spinach leaves and are rich in omega-3 fatty acids and antioxidants. Can be cut; will regenerate. Doesn't tolerate frost. Golden-green leaves patterned like a cross. We recommend a succession planting to maximize tenderness. ABC; D=$5.00, E=$7.00

Radicchio: Half gram packet about 350 seeds, 20,000 seeds per oz. Though these radicchios have not yet been refined to absolute uniformity, and occasional plants still bolt unpredictably, this generation of radicchio is not difficult to raise from transplants. Difficult to direct-seed. Watch out for voracious flea beetles. Culture like lettuce; do not allow to dry out. They are mature when they form heads in the center. The outer leaves are very bitter and should not be eaten. The edible centers are an acquired taste, retaining some bitterness. The deer found and consumed only the very centers before we could evaluate our gorgeous 1995 trial!

705 Giulio (60 days) Verona type for spring planting does not require forcing. Compact, round heads are smaller than Augusto with striking red leaves and white midribs. Will generally mature in late summer heat without bolting. ABCD

707 Augusto (70 days) The radicchio preferred by Alan LePage for its larger heads which mature in September. Its centers are not bitter. Best to plant in midsummer; it does not need to be cut back or forced. ABCD

GREENS

710-746: A=1/16oz, 50¢; B=1/8oz, 80¢; C=1/2oz, $1.20; D=1oz, $2.00 E=4oz, $3.60, except where noted.

710 Polish Amaranth (45 days) To round a corner and come unexpectedly upon a whole bed of tall riotous versions of amaranth, some red, some red and green and some red, green and yellow was surely a highlight for Shooting Star Farm's visitors this summer. We had nine varieties, of which our favorite was Hopi Red Dye, which we can't obtain for 1996. But the Polish was a close second, sporting tall red stalks and leaves, with slightly lighter shadings in mid-leaf. The leaves are edible while the plants are young, and make a colorful addition to salad mixes. Later, the plant's ornamental qualities come to the fore. NEW! AB

711 Arugula (47 days) Also known as Rouquette or Rocket. Musky green will spice up your salad. Much better when grown for fall crop, as will bolt readily in heat. A prime ingredient in tangy mesclun mixes. Few people are indifferent to arugula: Most of us love it, a few find it inedible. Almost unknown 10 years ago, it is now so popular that we order 50-pound bags of seed! ABCDE

CHARD

1/16 oz packet sows 12 ft, 1 oz plants 200 ft. Hardy.

712 Fordhook Giant Swiss Chard (50 days) Broad white stems; leaves dark green and savoyed with white veins. The standard variety. Very hardy. ABCDE

713 Ruby Red Rhubarb Chard (59 days) Deep crimson stalks, dark-green leaves. Very hardy. Beautiful for edible landscapes. ABCDE

CRESS

715 Curly Cress (20 days) Bright green tightly ruffled leaves can be cut as soon as they are a couple of inches tall. Peppery flavor enlivens salads. ABCDE

See also watercress, #1149.

ENDIVE & CHICORY

1/16 oz packet sows 40 ft, 1 oz 650 ft.

718 Très Fine Maraichere Endive (42 days) Large frizzy endive with very fine ribs suitable for late spring and early summer harvests. Known to chefs as frisée. AB; C=$2.50, D=$4.00, E=$14.00

720 Della Catalogna o Radichetta (49 days) Is it a dandelion, a chicory or a lettuce? We've had quite a correspondence before finding out from the Italian supplier that it is a lettuce. In our trials it attracted attention with its bluish color and heavy-textured serrated leaves somewhat resembling dandelions, and tasting agreeably bitter, more like escarole than lettuce. Lettuce or not, it should be used like chicory or Italian dandelion. Italians customarily chop the leaves, then steam and sauté them in olive oil. AB; C=$2.50, D=$4.00, E=$13.00

722 Lorca Endive (52 days) The curliest and most spread-out of the endives in our trial. Unlike TFM, the leaves are curly, not frizzy. Makes a beautiful plant with large, deep, thick heads which hold a long time. A

723 Broad-Leaved Batavian Endive (85 days) Also known as Escarole. Smooth dark-green broad outer leaves with creamy yellow, closely bunched center leaves. ABCDE

MÂCHE

Also known as Corn Salad, Lamb's Lettuce, Field Salad and Fetticus, mâche has a unique nutty flavor that really enhances salads. The once-humble peasant green was highly touted by Eliot Coleman, and has now gained favor in higher social strata. We added a second selection in 1994 because of the growing interest in year-round gardening stimulated by Coleman's most recent book Four-Season Harvest (available in our book section, #2327) Harvest by pinching off the entire rosette at ground level.

724 Verte de Cambrai (45 days) A small-seeded small-leaved strain (28,000 seeds per ounce) which performs especially well in cool or cold conditions and is the best variety for overwintering. ABCD; E=$6.00

725 Large-Leaf Round (60 days) This is a vigorous-growing large-leaf strain which is suitable for sowing in spring for an early summer harvest. 10,000 seeds/oz. ABCD; E=$6.00

727 Malabar Red (40 days) *Basella alba* 'Rubra' Also called Malabar Spinach. If you're very fond of spinach and miss it during those hot July and August days which it can't stand, try Malabar Red. Malabar is the closest spinach substitute we've found. It tastes just a little stronger than spinach, with thicker, more mucilaginous leaves. Said to be a climber, it needed no support in our recent droughty trials. Doesn't tolerate frost. Prefers warm, moist conditions. AB; C=$2.50, D=$4.00, E=$14.00

729 Green Wave Mustard Greens (45 days) Bright green color. Hot mustardy flavor; prime ingredient in spicy mesclun. Not as hot when parboiled. Will come back when cut; slow to bolt. 1957 AAS winner. ABCDE

733 Red Orach (38 days) *Atriplex hortensis* After a three-year search, we located a reliable source for this key salad ingredient. Also known as Mountain Spinach, this beautiful red-purple plant thrives in cool weather and should be sown as soon as the ground can be worked. Its spinach-shaped leaves have a mild flavor, and can be pinched back to encourage production and retard bolting. Produces an abundance of seed which can be saved or will occasionally self sow in your garden. We have sufficient seed to sell in bulk at a reasonable price and welcome inquiries. AB; C=$3.00, D=$6.00, E=$24.00

PARSLEY

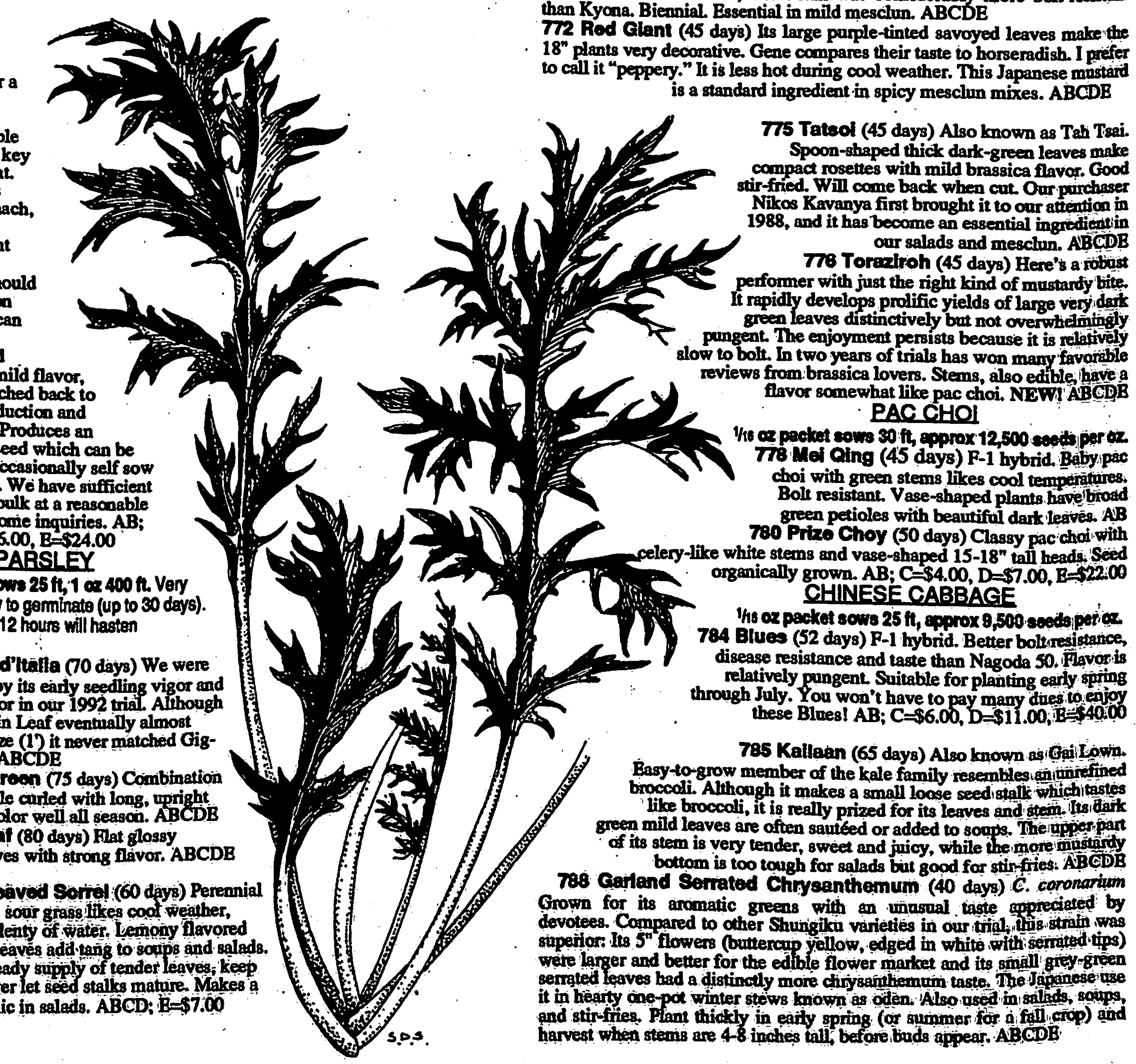
1/16 oz packet sows 25 ft, 1 oz 400 ft. Very hardy. Very slow to germinate (up to 30 days). Soaking seed 8-12 hours will hasten germination.

734 Gigante d'Italia (70 days) We were really wowed by its early seedling vigor and rich sweet flavor in our 1992 trial. Although the regular Plain Leaf eventually almost caught up in size (1') it never matched Gigante in flavor. ABCDE

735 Forest Green (75 days) Combination double and triple curled with long, upright stems. Holds color well all season. ABCDE

738 Plain Leaf (80 days) Flat glossy dark-green leaves with strong flavor. ABCDE

746 Broad-Leaved Sorrel (60 days) Perennial often known as sour grass likes cool weather, acid soil, and plenty of water. Lemony flavored sword-shaped leaves add tang to soups and salads. To maintain steady supply of tender leaves, keep cutting and never let seed stalks mature. Makes a tasty spring tonic in salads. ABCD; E=$7.00



ORIENTAL GREENS

We do considerable trials work with these greens in search of new opportunities to broaden our palates.

765-788: A=1/16oz, 90¢; B=1/8oz, $1.50; C=1/2oz, $2.80; D=1oz, $4.00 E=4oz, $11.00, except where noted.

765 Maruba Santoh (35 days) With Maruba you get two vegetables in one: a mild piquant flavor similar to mustard in the loose round light green leaves and a juicy, crisp pac choi taste in the flat white stem. Fairly bolt tolerant, so plant after the early spring flea beetle invasion subsides. ABCDE

766 Senposai (40 days) F-1 hybrid. This exciting new green, developed in Japan, is a cross between Japanese Mustard Spinach (Komatsuna *B. campestris*) and regular cabbage. Its round medium-green leaves are reminiscent of collards, with a delicious lighter taste, and are wonderful in Okonamiyaki. Best of all, Senposai stands the entire summer and goes well into fall before bolting! Open plant habit needs 12-18" per plant. ABC; D=$5.00, E=$19.00

MUSTARDS

1/16 oz packet sows 40 ft, approx 15,600 seeds per oz.

768 Mizuna (40 days) Vigorous Japanese mustard produces slender white stalks with deeply cut and fringed dark green leaves. Not pungent. One planting could suffice for full season production provided you kept it cut and irrigated in dry spells. Three or more successions would be required for the more discriminating connoisseur because the young leaves are more tender. In our 1995 trial, this strain was considerably more bolt-resistant than Kyona. Biennial. Essential in mild mesclun. ABCDE

772 Red Giant (45 days) Its large purple-tinted savoyed leaves make the 18" plants very decorative. Gene compares their taste to horseradish. I prefer to call it "peppery." It is less hot during cool weather. This Japanese mustard is a standard ingredient in spicy mesclun mixes. ABCDE

775 Tatsoi (45 days) Also known as Tah Tsai. Spoon-shaped thick dark-green leaves make compact rosettes with mild brassica flavor. Good stir-fried. Will come back when cut. Our purchaser Nikos Kavanya first brought it to our attention in 1988, and it has become an essential ingredient in our salads and mesclun. ABCDE

776 Toraziroh (45 days) Here's a robust performer with just the right kind of mustardy bite. It rapidly develops prolific yields of large very dark green leaves distinctively but not overwhelmingly pungent. The enjoyment persists because it is relatively slow to bolt. In two years of trials has won many favorable reviews from brassica lovers. Stems, also edible, have a flavor somewhat like pac choi. NEW! ABCDE

PAC CHOI

1/16 oz packet sows 30 ft, approx 12,500 seeds per oz.

778 Mei Qing (45 days) F-1 hybrid. Baby pac choi with green stems likes cool temperatures. Bolt resistant. Vase-shaped plants have broad green petioles with beautiful dark leaves. AB

780 Prize Choy (50 days) Classy pac choi with celery-like white stems and vase-shaped 15-18" tall heads. Seed organically grown. AB; C=$4.00, D=$7.00, E=$22.00

CHINESE CABBAGE

1/16 oz packet sows 25 ft, approx 9,500 seeds per oz.

784 Blues (52 days) F-1 hybrid. Better bolt resistance, disease resistance and taste than Nagoda 50. Flavor is relatively pungent. Suitable for planting early spring through July. You won't have to pay many dues to enjoy these Blues! AB; C=$6.00, D=$11.00, E=$40.00

785 Kailaan (65 days) Also known as Gai Lown. Easy-to-grow member of the kale family resembles an unrefined broccoli. Although it makes a small loose seed stalk which tastes like broccoli, it is really prized for its leaves and stem. Its dark green mild leaves are often sautéed or added to soups. The upper part of its stem is very tender, sweet and juicy, while the more mustardy bottom is too tough for salads but good for stir-fries. ABCDE

788 Garland Serrated Chrysanthemum (40 days) *C. coronarium* Grown for its aromatic greens with an unusual taste appreciated by devotees. Compared to other Shungiku varieties in our trial, this strain was superior: Its 5" flowers (buttercup yellow, edged in white with serrated tips) were larger and better for the edible flower market and its small grey-green serrated leaves had a distinctly more chrysanthemum taste. The Japanese use it in hearty one-pot winter stews known as oden. Also used in salads, soups, and stir-fries. Plant thickly in early spring (or summer for a fall crop) and harvest when stems are 4-8 inches tall, before buds appear. ABCDE

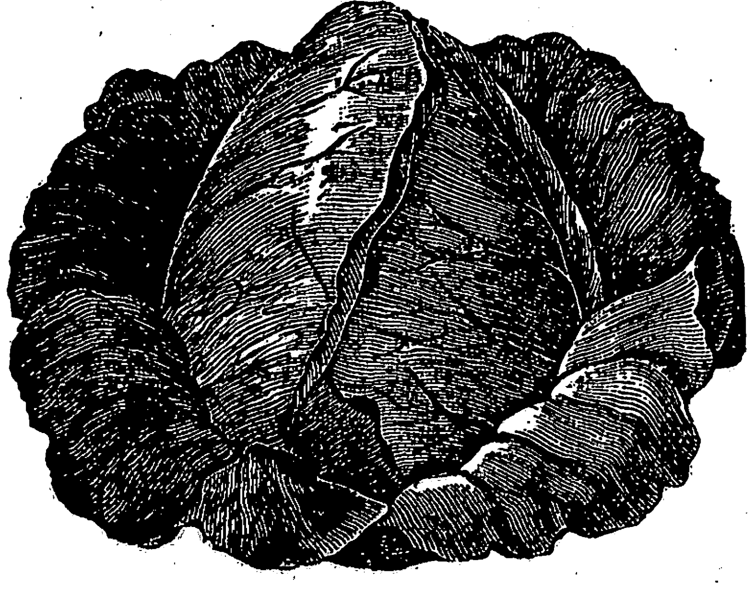
OPEN-POLLINATED BRASSICA

2 gram packet about 600 seeds, sow 45 ft. About 8,000 seeds per oz. Hardy. May be started indoors Mar.-Apr. for setting out in May, or direct-seeded in May or June for fall crop. For better stands sow in trenches if conditions are dry. Kale and collards should be direct-seeded in July for Sept. maturity. Require warm temperatures to germinate. Need 60s during seedling stage for optimal growth; higher temperatures make seedlings leggy. Heavy feeders; for best growth, need regular moisture and 2-3' spacing. Combat cabbage loopers with dipel. Use floating row covers to keep out flea beetles. When cauliflower heads first appear, bend leaves over curd to prevent heads from discoloring. Some brassica varieties perform poorly in hot summers. Cauliflower and broccoli are damaged by hard frosts, especially in spring. Brussels Sprouts and kale are the hardiest members of the family. Eleven kale varieties adorned our fall trial garden. We hope to offer an exciting op black variety in 1997. Fresh and frozen broccoli and fresh cauliflower are all ranked among the 10 foods which had the greatest increases in per capita consumption from 1978 to 1988. Recent research suggests that consumption of brassicas, especially broccoli, reduces the risk of developing cancers.

802-826: A=2g, 60¢; B=4g, $1.00; C=14g, $1.60; D=28g, $2.50; E=112g, $7.50, except where noted.

802 Thompson Broccoli (92 days) Oregon breeder Tim Peters, who has done much work with open-pollinated broccoli, rates Thompson as better than his earlier development Umpqua. When grown under fertile conditions, Thompson shows excellent resistance to stress and greater uniformity than Umpqua. Dark green heads average 5-6" in diameter, a few days later and without the occasional throwbacks which marred Umpqua. We are pleased to offer this excellent open-pollinated broccoli for fall crops. AB; C=$2.50, D=$4.50, E=$16.00

805 Early Jersey Wakefield Cabbage (63 days) Standard old variety with compact medium 2-3 lb. pointy heads. A good early variety originally from England; around since the 1800s. Olds sold it for 15¢ an ounce in 1915. ABCD; E=$4.00



808 Laso Red Cabbage (75 days) Slightly dwarfed variety with attractive round 2-3 lb. heads. Few wrapper leaves. ABCDE

812 Dominant Cauliflower (94 days) Where adaptable, Dominant produces a beautiful fall crop of elegant 4-6 lb. heads. It does not perform well in sandy soils under dry conditions, but is a star on highly fertile loams and clay soils. Suitable only for late crops. AB; C=$3.00, D=$5.00, E=$19.00

816 Champion Collards (60 days) Rich dark strain selected to stand longer. Resembles kale, but not savoyed. Thin to 12" apart for good size. Best as a fall crop. For greens into November; popular in the South for greens throughout the winter. ABCD; E=$4.00

819 Konserva Kale (60 days) Heavier yielding than Vates. Plants grow 2-2½' tall, leaves curl in cold weather. Very nutritious and exceptionally cold hardy. ABCDE

822 Red Russian Kale (60 days) A Raggedy Jack or Siberian type with oakleaf foliage which colors up after fall frosts. Red and purple leaves change to a dark green when cooked. Use soon after picking; wilts quickly. Vigorous edible landscape plant has proven a big hit with customers for its unsurpassed tenderness and delicate flavor. We have an ample supply of seed and welcome commercial inquiries. AB; C=$3.00, D=$5.00, E=$16.00

826 Early White Vienna Kohlrabi (58 days) Early dwarf variety with short tops and medium-sized stems. Bulbs have crisp white tender flesh with a pungent taste. The trick to liking this vegetable is to harvest young; then it tastes like a humble version of the globe artichoke. If you wait too long, the texture turns tough, woody, and inedible. ABCD; E=$4.00

HYBRID BRASSICA

½ gram packet about 150 seeds. About 8,000 seeds per oz (28.4g).
830-897: A=½g, 90¢; B=1g, $1.50; C=4g, $4.50; D=14g, $10.50 E=28g, $20.00, except where noted.

BROCCOLI

830 Packman (73 days) The best choice for earliest broccoli, since we cannot get seed for our old favorite Bravo. Packman produces 6-7" flat-topped heads. Usually reliable but will button if stressed by extreme cold or excessive moisture. From Petoseed. ABCDE

834 Emperor (78 days) Growers' choice because it has the most perfectly domed heads which stay very tight on long stems. Heads avg. 6-8", quite uniform except in very hot weather. Nonstop producer of side shoots till cold weather, some big enough to be marketable as main heads! By far our best-selling broccoli, with almost 2000 packets in 1995. ABCDE

837 Premium Crop (82 days) Long the standard main crop broccoli for commercial growers. Uniform, dependable with large 8" heads. Very few side shoots. Harvest early in rainy weather to avoid rot in centers. 1975 AAS winner from Takii in Japan. ABCDE

838 Green King (85 days) Green King's exceptional tenderness made it the best-tasting of the 23 varieties in Adam Tomash's 1994 trial. Green King also scored high for its consistent yield of large uniform high-quality 8" heads. Market growers will appreciate its uniform ripening. Vigorous plants bear thick blue-green domed heads with rather large beads. Side shoots are large but not plentiful. Green King stands heat well. Be sure to try this outstanding find which could set the standard for the next generation of hybrid broccoli. ABCDE

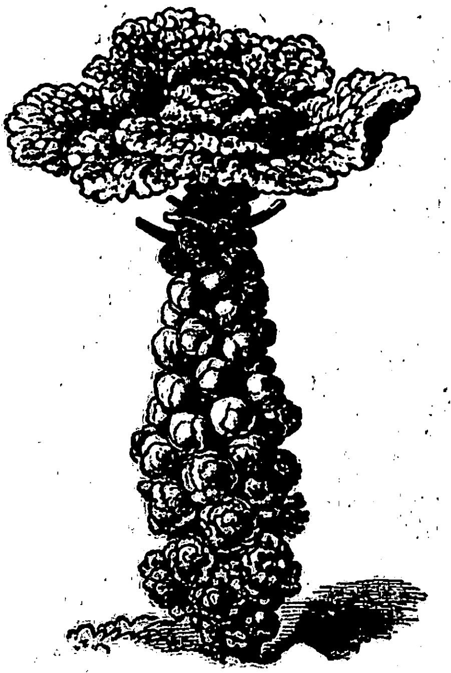
840 Green Valiant (90 days) An excellent fall broccoli, but makes irregular heads in midsummer heat. Compact plants with very dense light green heads on heavy stems. Even at 8-9" diameter, heads remain extremely tight. 2nd only to Emperor as prolific side shoot producer. ABCDE

844 Arcadia (94 days) Growers who like Green Valiant's dense heads but not its light green color will appreciate Arcadia's frosty bluish-green heads with very refined, small beads that hold a long time. Arcadia was the only broccoli which held its own in our trial during the hot summer of 1989, looking even better in 1990, both in summer and fall, and grew in one day from barely harvestable to humungous in the heat of 1991. Gently mounded dome-shaped heads are consistently of marketable quality. *The best broccoli for midsummer*. ABC; D=$12.00, E=$22.00

848 Romanesco (120 days) Open-pollinated. Romanesco is a unique Italian broccoli. When well grown, it is one of the most beautiful plants in the garden with its cone-shaped, somewhat irregular whorl of chartreuse florets. When not well grown, the whorls can be small and ugly. The trick is to maintain extremely high soil fertility. We had fantastic results planting in raised beds with 8" of well-rotted manure. Well-grown plants are huge, and need about 10 sq. ft. each. Should be started indoors in March or April and transplanted out in late May or June. Maturity is irregular and can occur any time between August and October. ABC; D=$7.00, E=$12.00

BRUSSELS SPROUTS

852 Prince Marvel (110 days) Nikos' inspiration to replace Jade Cross E with the Prince proved very popular with customers. Compared to Jade, Prince Marvel has firmer and smoother sprouts, which are more uniform and less likely to rot at the bottom or to grow large and loose. But the real reason to try Prince Marvel is taste. Nikos says, "Until I cooked Prince Marvel I was definitely not a brussels sprouts fan and all of my kids hated them. Now we all clamor for more." For best results, start indoors in spring and transplant into very rich soil. Sprouts taste better after light frosts and can be harvested into December some years. ABC; D=$13.00, E=$25.00



CABBAGE

854 Flash (64 days) Many families prefer small cabbage heads these days. Flash fills the bill with very early production of 4-5" heads weighing only about 2 lb. Its compact plants can be spaced closer than other varieties, yielding dark-green globes with short cores which will hold several weeks in the field. ABC; D=$7.00, E=$12.00

864 Grand Prize (76 days) The top choice in Jeanne Griffin's 1989 early cabbage trial for us. "Has the extra size, sweet juicy flavor, and classy looks uncharacteristic of early varieties!" says Jeanne. Slightly flattened heads average 5 lb. with tight wrapper leaves. ABC; D=$6.00, E=$10.00

866 Julius Savoy (80 days) We've trialed a number of savoy cabbages and Julius is head and wrappers above the rest. Julius is remarkable for its heavily savoyed 4-5 lb. tight blue-green heads ripening just before midseason. Each is a uniform perfectly proportioned globe. Julius will just draw you into the cabbage patch to admire it. We wouldn't have believed a green cabbage could be so handsome. ABCDE

868 Perfect Ball (84 days) We don't like superlatives like perfect in variety names, but in this case the name fits. Customers have made Perfect Ball our best-selling cabbage variety for good reason. It stands out for its flavor, density, uniformity, classy appearance and ability to hold in the field for a long time. 5-6 lb. heads with wrapper leaves so tight even cabbage worms seem sometimes to be denied entrance. ABC; D=$12.00, E=$22.00

872 Super Red 80 (80 days) Super Red 80 ripens after Laso, but well before Ruby Perfection, with tight round medium-dark red heads in the 3-5 lb. range. Fancy appearance will please market growers. ABC; D=$12.00, E=$22.00

874 Ruby Perfection (85 days) This fancy midseason type has produced some of the loveliest cabbage we've ever seen: solid deep purple-red globe-shaped heads in the 4-6 lb. range, occasionally 8 lbs. Although seed is sometimes difficult to obtain, we have plenty for the 1996 season. ABCDE

CAULIFLOWER

875 Majestic (68 days) We welcome back Majestic, a reliable early reasonably sized cauliflower for summer production. Heads average 5-6", weighing from 10 oz. to 1 lb. with good color, and rugged enough to withstand hot dry conditions. BACK! ABC; D=$12.00, E=$22.00

876 Snow Crown (70 days) Makes cauliflower a cinch to grow. Dependable producer of uniform 6-7" heads early summer through October. Drought resistant. Very early. Some tendency for pink heads in adverse conditions. 1975 All-America winner from Takii. ABC

880 Rushmore (74 days) We haven't trialed it in South Dakota, but Rushmore stands alone as the best second-early variety for the Northeast. A reliable producer of uniform 2 lb. very white high-domed curds which have looked good even in the heat. Its large frame and dark green leaves provide some curd protection from sun and frost. Slightly larger, later and more uniform than Snow Crown with no pink heads. NEW! AB

884 Violet Queen (80 days) About halfway between broccoli and cauliflower, each plant sets one purple head which doesn't require tying. No side shoots form. A tasty novelty for adding color to salads and dips. Turns light green when blanched. AB

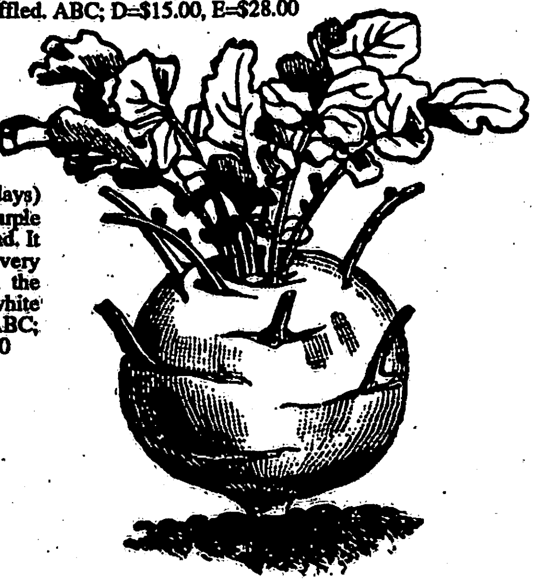
890 Candid Charm (95 days) Charm produces large curds, in the same class as Dominant, but less fussy. Holds snow-white color a long time. Recommended for fall crops only. We've grown some awesome heads. Our largest, 12x14", weighed 6½ lb. and won a $5 bet. Most were in 3-4 lb. range. ABC; D=$13.00, E=$25.00

KALE

894 Winterbor (60 days) Winterbor was the most vigorous grower in our 1990 fall kale trial, showing the best cold hardiness and the richest blue-green color. Again in 1993 and 1995, it was the class of the trial. Curled leaves are highly ruffled. ABC; D=$15.00, E=$28.00

KOHLRABI

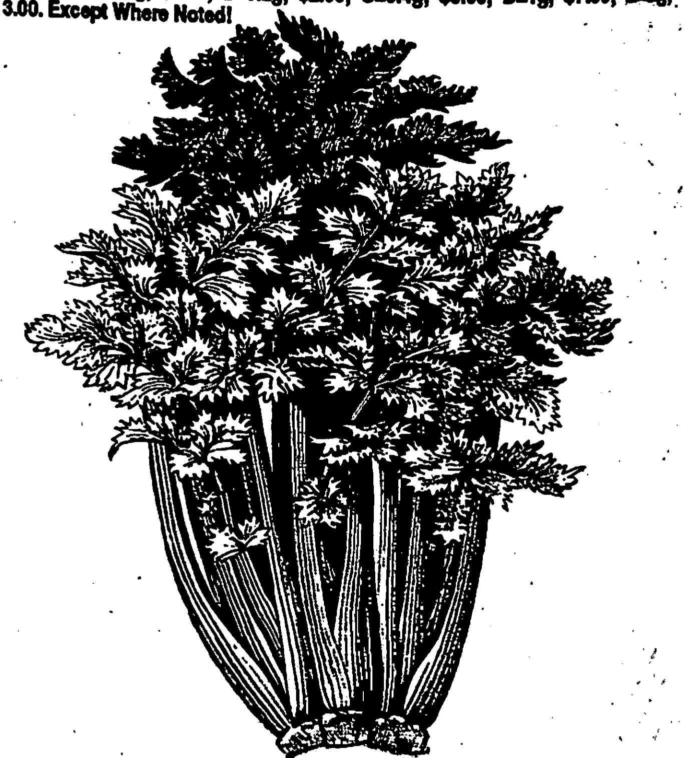
897 Kolibri (45 days) The best purple kohlrabi we've found. It is quick growing, very uniform, purple on the outside, crisp and white on the inside. ABC; D=$15.00, E=$28.00



MUST BE STARTED INDOORS

Days to maturity are from date of transplanting, not seeding. Transplant at 6-8 weeks after all danger of frost is past. *Caution*: Our catalog does not follow the same sequence as our order form. All the tomatoes, peppers, etc., are grouped together in the catalog as many of you have requested. On the order sheet indoor crops are grouped in four sections according to their prices, in item number sequence. Use the item numbers to find them on your order sheet.

904-937: A=½g, 55¢; B=1g, 90¢, C=2g, $1.50; D=4g, $2.20, E=28g, $4.40
940-957: A=¼g, 80¢; B=½g, $1.40, C=1g, $2.60; D=2g, $5.00, E=4g, $9.00
958-999: A=0.2g, 90¢; B=0.4g, $1.75; C=1g, $3.60, D=2g, $6.30, E=4g, $11.50
1000-1009: A=0.1g, $1.20, B=0.2g, $2.00; C=0.4g, $3.60, D=1g, $7.50, E=2g, $13.00. Except Where Noted!



CELERY/CELERIAC

0.2 gram packet about 540 seeds, ½ gram packet about 1350 seeds, 75,000 seeds per oz. Tender, must be started indoors in March, 10-12 weeks before setting out. Slow growers require rich moist soil to survive.

904-908: A=½g, 55¢; B=1g, 90¢, C=2g, $1.50; D=4g, $2.20, E=28g, $4.40
958: A=0.2g, 90¢; B=0.4g, $1.75; C=1g, $3.60, D=2g, $6.30, E=4g, $11.50
except where noted.

904 Ventura Celery (80 days) Presumably named for Ventura County, California where celery is the third leading cash crop. I always found celery difficult to grow until I tried Ventura. Even in less than ideal conditions, Ventura develops beautiful thick crisp stalks, with a rich but never a harsh flavor and doesn't seem to get the punky centers which sometimes plague Utah. ABCDE

907 Afina Cutting Celery (60 days) Afina is notable for its sturdy dark green foliage with a rich aroma and taste. It regenerates quickly after cutting. Dutch variety imparts the same flavor to stews and soups as conventional celery. And though its culture is the same, it is much hardier and easier to grow. Both its thin hollow stems and its leaves can be used fresh or dried. Grows up to 30" tall. ABCD; E=$6.50

908 Par-Cel Cutting Celery (72 days) Five years ago market gardener Eva Sommaripa suggested that we carry this curly cutting celery which looks like parsley but tastes more like celery. We held off because we could not find a supplier. Now we are able to offer a limited quantity of Sommaripa's own seed. In several outdoor trials we've found it a fussy germinator, so we recommend an indoor start. Although it withstands heat and drought, Par-Cel is remarkably cold-tolerant, lasting well into late fall. Tremendously vigorous once established—a half dozen plants may be sufficient. Makes a terrific garnish, also adds a welcome zest to salads and soups when the leaves are young and tender. As they age they develop a strong flavor not for delicate palates so you may want to cut them back once the roots are well established. A=.1g; about 200 seeds. short supply, order early. **NEW!**

958 Diamante Celeriac (100 days) F-1 hybrid. A classy celeriac with nicely sized roots that stand above the ground (for ease of harvest and cleaning), no hollow crown and very few offshoots. I have found that hybrid varieties size up much more quickly than open-pollinated celeriacs. An early start indoors is essential for good yields. If you haven't yet been sufficiently venturesome to try celeriac, give Diamante's clean white internal coloration and superb eating quality a chance. ABCDE

VEGETABLE PLANTING GUIDE AND CULTURAL INFORMATION

Vegetable	Cat #	Sds/ oz	Sds/ 100'	Pkt plants	distance in row	thin to	distance bet rows	seed depth	min soil temp	ideal soil temp	hardiness	planting date	cultural hints
Basil, Sweet	1054-77	18000	5g	80 ft.	1/2 in.	4 in.	18 in.	1/4 in.	65	70-85	very tender	June 1	Get off to a faster start under floating row covers.
Bean, Bush,Dry	100-99	100	8 oz	25 ft.	2 in.	3 in.	2-3 ft.	1 in.	60	70-85	tender	late May	Use floating row covers to hasten maturity by a week.
Bean, Pole	136, 170-2	75	4 oz	10 pl/oz	6 per pole	3/pole	3-4 ft.	1 in.	60	70-85	tender	late May	Keep picked regularly for best results.
Beet	530-45	2200	1/2 oz	20 ft.	1 in.	2-4 in.	12-18 in.	1/2 in.	50	65-85	hardy	Apr.-July	Eat the greens as you thin the crop.
Broccoli	830-48	7000	5g	.5g=10 ft	1 in.	24-30 in	30 in	1/4 in	50	65-85	mod hardy	tp May/June	Start indoors in March or direct seed May & June.
Brussels Sprouts	852	7500	5g	.5g=10 ft	1 in.	24-30 in	24-30 in.	1/4 in	50	65-85	hardy	tp May/June	Flavor improves after fall frosts.
Cabbage	805-74	7500	5g	.5g=10 ft	1 in.	24-30 in	24-30 in.	1/4 in	50	65-85	mod hardy	tp May/June	Start indoors in March or direct seed May & June.
Carrot	501-30	18000	10g	35 ft	1/4-1/2 in.	1 in.	16-24 in.	1/2 in	50	65-85	hardy	Apr.-July	Cover row w/board after sowing to prevent soil from drying
Cauliflower	812-90	8000	4g	.5g=12 ft	1 in.	30 in	30-36 in	1/4 in	55	65-85	mod hardy	tp May/June	Start indoors in March or direct seed May to mid Jun.
Celery/Celeriac	901-58	75000	T	600 pl.	8 in.	no	2-3 ft	1/8 in	50	55-70	tender	tp June 1	Start indoors March, they grow slowly at first.
Chard/Swiss, Rhu	712-13	2000	1/2 oz	12 ft.	1 in.	3 in.	18-24 in.	1/2 in	50	65-85	hardy	ASAP	Same family as beets.
Chinese Cabbage	784	9500	1/4 oz	25 ft.	1/2 in.	12-18 in	24-30 in.	1/4 in	50	70-95	mod hardy	late May	Exposure to cold nights can cause premature bolting.
Corn	200-49	155	4 oz	50 ft.	2-3 in.	8-12 in	3 ft.	1 in	60	70-95	tender	June 1	Don't overcrowd. Heavy nitrogen requirements.
Cucumber	350-74	1100	1/2 oz	11 ft.	2 in.	4 in.	4 ft.	1/2 in	60	75-95	very tender	June 1	Floating row covers prevent cucumber beetle damage.
Eggplant	909-910, 959-961	6500	T	60 pl.	20-30 in.	no	30-36 in.	1/4 in	68	75-85	very tender	tp early Jun	Start indoors late March or April in warm conditions.
Endive	718-23	18000	5g	40 ft.	1 in.	8 in.	18-24 in.	1/4 in	50	60-85	hardy	Apr.-July	Sow early, make succession plantings.
Kale & Collards	816-94	7500	5g	40 ft.	1 in.	12 in.	24 in.	1/4 in	50	65-85	very hardy	July	Flavor improves after frost, rich in vitamins.
Leek	576-80	10000	T	600 pl.	8 in/pl.	no	2 ft.	1/2 in	50	60-80	mod hardy	tp May 1	Start indoors in February or March.
Lettuce	616-92	25000	4g	1g=25 ft	1/4 in.	1 ft.	12-18 in.	1/8 in	40	50-75	hardy	Apr.*-Aug	For full "heads" thin continually so plants don't touch.
Muskmelon	301-31	1200	T	5 hills	3/pot	2/hill	5 ft.	1/2 in	68	80-95	very tender	tp early Jun	Start indoors in peat pots around May 1
Mustard	729, 768-772	15600	1/8 oz	45 ft.	1 in.	4-6 in.	24 in.	1/4 in	50	65-85	mod hardy	Apr.-Aug.	Use floating row covers to combat flea beetles.
Onion	584-99	7000	T	500 pl.	4 in/pl.	no	12-18 in.	1/2 in	50	60-85	mod hardy	tp May 1	Start indoors in February or March.
Pac Choi	778-80	12500	1/4 oz	30 ft.	1/2 in	6-12 in.	24 in.	1/4 in	50	70-95	mod hardy	May	Use of floating row covers will deter flea beetles.
Parsley	734-38	18000	1/4 oz	25 ft.	1/4 in	1 in.	12-18 in.	1/4 in	50	50-85	very hardy	Apr.-Aug	Slow to germinate, can take up to a month.
Parsnip	547	5000	1/2 oz	25 ft.	1/2 in	2-3 in.	12-18 in.	1/2 in	52	60-77	very hardy	Apr.-July	Prepare a very friable seedbed so roots can penetrate.
Pea/snow,snap	250-99	125	8 oz	30 ft.	1.5 in.	no	3 ft. dwarf	3/4 in	48	65-85	plants hardy	Apr.*	All varieties, even dwarf ones, benefit from staking.
Pea/snow,snap							5 ft. tall				blossoms, pods tender	Late June	For fall crops. Expect slower ripening in fall.
Pepper	911-1009	4500	T	20-50 pl	12-18 in.	no	2-3 ft	1/4 in	68	75-85	very tender	tp early Jun	Start indoors late March or April in warm conditions.
Pumpkin	440-99	210	1/2 oz	4-8 hls	6/hill	3/hill	6 ft.	1 in.	60	70-90	tender/	late May	Plant between corn rows to save space, reduce animal loss.
Radicchio	705-07	20000	1/2 oz	30 ft.	1 in.	8-10 in	18 in.	1/8 in	50	60-85	hardy	varies	Maintaining soil fertility is very important.
Radish	550-62	2500	1 oz	15 ft.	1/2 in	2 in.	18 in.	1/2 in	50	60-85	hardy	Apr.-Aug	Great for kids' gardens because easy to grow and come quick
Spinach	600-614	2600	1/2 oz	50 ft.	1 in.	2 in.	12-18 in.	1/2 in	42	60-80	very hardy	Apr.*	Plant early; increasing day length causes bolting.
Spinach												Aug	for fall crop and wintering over
Tomato	927-999	9000	T	50-125pl	2-3 ft/pl.	no	2-3 ft.	1/4 in	60	68-80	tender	tp June 1	Use of raw manure causes lush foliage, retards ripening.
Turnip/Rutabaga	568-74	9000	1/4 oz	40 ft.	1/2 in.	3-4 in.	18 in.	1/4 in	50	60-95	hardy	Apr.-July	Use of floating row covers will reduce flea beetle damage.
Watermelon	308-48	650	T	4 hills	3/pot	2/hill	5 ft.	1/2 in	68	80-95	very tender	tp early Jun	Transplant melons at the onset of a warm spell.
Winter Squash	401-75	140-300	.5-1oz	3-12 hls	6/hill	3/hill	4-6 ft.	1 in.	60	70-90	tender	late May	After harvest field cure for 10 days to enhance flavor.
Yellow summer sq	386-95	375	1/2 oz	6 hills	6/hill	3/hill	4 ft.	1 in.	60	70-90	tender	late May	Keep picked regularly to maintain production all season.
Zucchini	376-84	180	1 oz	3-4 hills	6/hill	3/hill	4 ft.	1 in.	60	70-90	tender	late May	Floating row covers speed ripening up to two weeks.

For cultural information on herbs and flowers please see the variety descriptions.

Abbreviations: Pkt plants=how many row feet our smallest packet will plant. T=transplanted only, in our climate. tp=transplant pl.=plants g=grams, 28.4g=1 oz. hls=hills no=not necessary to thin.

Hardiness rating: Very tender=will not survive frost and can be damaged by temperatures under 40 degrees.
Tender=will not survive frost
Mod hardy=survives light frosts
Hardy=survives frost generally to the low twenties
Very hardy=will winter over if protected

Seed Storage

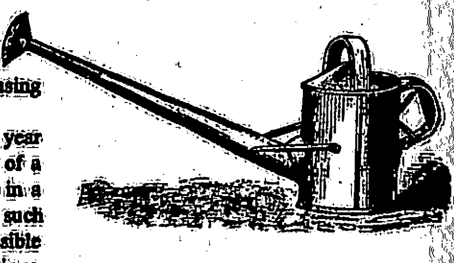
Keep your seed alive by storing it properly! Moisture, humidity and high temperatures are the worst enemies of seed viability. Find a storage area where the sum of relative humidity and temperature is below 100. We recommend placing your packets in a plastic-zip bag or glass jar in your freezer or refrigerator. Never keep seed packets in a sunny location, and do not leave them in your greenhouse even for a few hours!

Most seed stored properly will last for several years. A few seeds, such as onions, parsnips and parsley are short-lived. If in doubt try germinating a sample of your old seed in moist paper towels.

Approximate planting date: Apr*= as soon as ground can be worked, does not thrive in heat.
varies=different varieties need different times.

Approximate planting dates are for our Central Maine climate. Please make appropriate adjustments for your climate, using hardiness rating as a guide.

Notes: Seed counts are provided as a guide, not a guarantee. They vary from cultivar to cultivar, and even from year to year with the same cultivar. You can stretch your seeds further with careful planting. We can get a lot more row feet out of a packet of beets serenely planted on a breezy, sunny, bug-free day than we can out of the same packet hastily sown in a humid mosquito-infested twilight! Seed counts vary for specific cultivars. Planting rates will vary if intensive methods such as beds are used. Minimum soil temperatures are the lowest we can recommend if you want a good stand. It would be possible to plant under slightly colder conditions, but germination will be slow and spotty. If you have specific cultural questions, consult more detailed resources or get in touch with us.



For Your Gardening Enjoyment

by CR Lawn

I have found the following to be most important to gardening success:

Make your own compost. You don't have to be an expert to make perfect plant food. Even if you know nothing about carbon-nitrogen ratios, and turn your pile(s) only once a year, you can make great compost by piling varied organic matter in thin layers. It's amazing what compost can do for your plants. In June, 1989, when it was too wet anywhere in my garden to set out my tomato plants, I spread a 6-inch layer of compost over a small area, and set them right in it. Those plants were the healthiest and most prolific I'd ever grown. Carrots and onions also respond spectacularly to the same treatment.

Overcrowding plants is a common cause of failure. Thin, thin, thin! Throw away those books that tell you to plant broccoli 16 inches apart. You will get spindly plants with puny heads if you space them that closely. An apprentice at my farm once planted sweet corn seed too deep. The resulting stand was about one half as dense as I would have liked, but the roomy plants ripened better than three full-sized ears apiece! Joann and Gene have encouraged me to thin everything from sweet basil to bachelor's buttons, bush beans to senposai, with great results. The surviving plants quickly become healthy, robust and productive! To get maximum benefits, start thinning early when your plants are small.

Get the jump on the weeds. That first cultivation when your plants are just emerging is the most important one. Time invested in weed control early in the season pays ninefold dividends in saving backbreaking labor later. Many crops such as onions and carrots have no chance in a weedy patch.

Work with the weather, not against it. Pulling weeds out of soft moist soil when the sun first comes out after a rain is so much more rewarding than trying to tug them out of dry, baked soil. Your soil and plants can teach you the optimal times to sow, cultivate, mulch and harvest. Learn to be an amateur weather prognosticator by studying clouds, wind direction, temperatures, the moon, and your barometer. It will make you a better gardener, and besides, it is fascinating. When you get good at it, you will not only be able to laugh at errant television weather "experts," but you will also be able to get away with a high percentage of what look to outsiders to be garden gambles, but really aren't!

Feed your soil. Heavy cropping takes an enormous toll on soil nutrients, which must be replaced if your plot is to maintain fertility. We apply animal manures, compost, and spoiled hay in liberal quantities to ensure optimal growth. If your squashes, greens, sweet corn and brassicas don't develop deep rich foliage color, they need more nitrogen. If their foliage is streaked with purple, your plants aren't getting enough phosphorus.

Atop each section we list catalog numbers and sizes and prices which apply. After the individual variety descriptions, we list available sizes (ABCDE) as well as any deviations from the section prices.

For example, all 5 sizes of #959 Swallow are available; sizes A-C but not D-E of #910 Rosa Bianca are available. All five sizes of #908 Dusky are available, but size D costs $2.80, not $2.20, and size E costs $16.50, not $4.40. #963 Annie Oakley II has an irregular packet size, and comes in one size only.

EGGPLANT

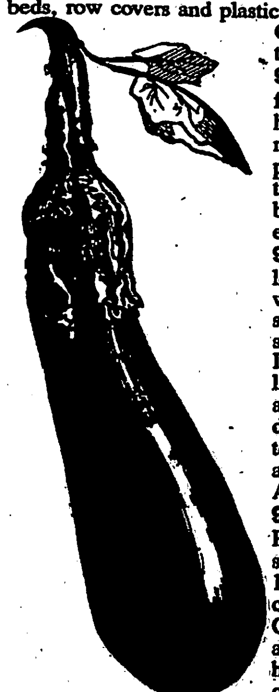
.2 gram packet about 48 seeds, ½ gram packet about 120 seeds. Likes same growing conditions as peppers. We are working on broadening our selection and have added a new variety for the third consecutive year.

909-910: A=½g, 55¢; B=1g, 90¢, C=2g, $1.50; D=4g, $2.20, E=28g, $4.40, except where noted.

959-961: A=0.2g, 90¢; B=0.4g, $1.75; C=1g, $3.60, D=2g, $6.30, E=4g, $11.50.

909 Dusky (75 days) F-1 hybrid. A dependable hybrid for the North. Glossy black fruits medium-sized, oval-shaped, firm. Resistant to TMV. ABC; D=$2.80, E=$16.50

910 Rosa Bianca (88 days) Called by Vermont market grower Alan LePage "the best eggplant in the universe," with a creamy, pudding-like consistency and delicate flavor unmatched by any other variety. Gorgeous fruits, white with lavender streaking down the side, can command $3 a pound at markets. Quite different from those familiar slender black types, Rosa is plump, about 3-4" across and 5" long, narrow at the top and going down almost in folds. Fruits average 2#, max out at 4#, making it LePage's highest-yielding eggplant. Open-pollinated Rosa needs to be coddled, particularly in the northern half of New England. We recommend raised beds, row covers and plastic or IRT mulch. No disappointments this year: Organic seed from Vermont is on hand and tests in the high 70s. ABC



959 Swallow (51 days) F-1 hybrid. If past failure with this vegetable in our harsh climate has been a bitter pill to swallow, this Swallow might leave a better taste. Swallow is early, producing glossy purple-black tender fruit of the elongated (1¾x7") oriental type without the bitterness often associated with larger eggplants. ABCDE

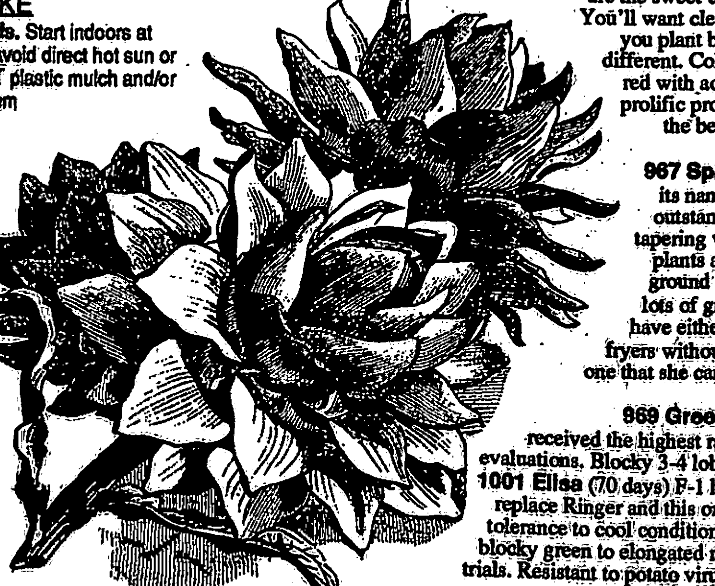
960 Pingtung Long (58 days) F-1 hybrid. A long Chinese eggplant that will please cooks who enjoy the ease of working with uniform slices. Plants are vigorous, stress tolerant, and start producing early for a decent overall yield. If Pingtung is harvested before full maturity its light purple color is especially appealing. As it approaches its full 11" length, its skin will darken but retain a pleasing sheen. Has the taste to keep you coming back for more—an appealing sweetness without bitterness. NEW! ABCDE

961 Little Fingers (84 days) F-1 hybrid. First oriental-type eggplant we offered. Long slim tasty fruits are shaped like fingers, about 1" in diameter, up to 7" long, and borne in clusters of 3-4 from the plant's fruiting nodes. Can be harvested short for baby eggplant or allowed to grow full length. Light purple fruits have a smooth glossy sheen under ideal conditions. ABCD

GLOBE ARTICHOKE

Half gram packet contains about 12 seeds. Start indoors at temperatures as near 60° as possible and avoid direct hot sun or overwatering (misting is preferred). Use IRT plastic mulch and/or row covers. Feed them heavily and give them almost as much space as Romanesco Broccoli (10 sq. ft. per plant). **962: A=0.5g, 90¢**

962 Imperial Star (120 days) open-pollinated. Reports are coming in that this delicious vegetable is now accessible to Maine gardeners. Our own trial was set back by drought and then overrun by rampant pumpkin vines, but we saw good specimens at the Exhibition Hall at Common Ground Fair. Market gardener Alan LePage has had success with Imperial Star in Barre, VT, getting as many as eight fruits off a single plant. Most plants will bear more than one, with the majority of production coming in the cooler fall weather which they prefer to summer's full heat. Plants (both seedlings and mature) can tolerate light, but not hard, frosts. *Caution: May not ripen in northernmost areas.* NEW!



OKRA

2 gram packet contains about 30 seeds. Okra is very tender and requires a lot of heat. Although it may be direct seeded it is very marginal in our climate. We recommend starting indoors in peat pots in warm (80°) temperatures and transplanting in 4-5 weeks, after all danger of frost has passed. Transplant 1' apart; do not disturb roots.

963: A=2g, 90¢

963 Annie Oakley II (75 days) F-1 hybrid. We were skeptical, and we had to see it work a couple of different years, but we found that Annie Oakley II will mature its angular medium green pods in our climate. Better yielding than the original Annie Oakley, these strongly branched plants of medium height will keep producing as long as they are harvested regularly.

SWEET PEPPERS

.2 gram packet about 32 seeds, half gram about 80 seeds. Room temperature is *not* sufficient to germinate pepper seeds. They need 80s. Very tender, will not tolerate frost, dislike windy spots, will not set fruit in cold or extremely hot temperatures or in drought conditions. Start indoors March or April. Set out June. Black plastic highly recommended. Pick first green peppers when they reach full size to significantly increase total yield.

At GreenGenes Farm, Nikos specialized in growing market peppers, and she has made upgrading our pepper selection a major priority. In the past four years we have added eleven new peppers, including our first yellow, orange and purple bells.

911-924: A=½g, 55¢; B=1g, 90¢, C=2g, $1.50; D=4g, $2.20, E=28g, $4.40

964-974: A=0.2g, 90¢; B=0.4g, $1.75; C=1g, $3.60, D=2g, $6.30, E=4g, $11.50

1000-1009: A=0.1g, $1.20, B=0.2g, $2.00; C=0.4g, $3.60, D=1g, $7.50, E=2g, $13.00. Except Where Noted!

911 King of the North (70 days) Our most popular open-pollinated pepper. A good choice for those who want marketable blocky peppers but can't get Staddon's Select to set fruit. ABCDE

913 Purple Beauty (74 days) We welcome open-pollinated Purple Beauty, the first purple pepper we have ever listed. Purple Bell produces a good yield of blocky 3"x3" fruits which turn from green to purple to deep red as they mature. Purple fruits taste like other crisp green bells and will turn green when cooked. Plants 18-20". NEW! ABC; D=$2.50, E=$15.00

914 Staddon's Select (74 days) Early production of good-sized fruit in adverse conditions. Large, glossy, dark-green 3-4 lobed peppers on tall bushy plants. A good large blocky market-type pepper where fruits will set. *Caution: not adapted to northernmost areas.* ABCD; E=$5.00

922 Cubanelle (80 days) Our customers asked for this semi-sweet frying pepper. 6x2" waxy yellow-green fruits turn red. Not pungent. ABCDE

964 Ace (60 days) F-1 hybrid. A cinch to grow in the North. Resists blossom drop even in adverse weather so that almost every flower produces. Fruits light, not blocky, turn red early. Good home garden kind. ABCDE

965 North Star (65 days) F-1 hybrid. Early productive sweet pepper sets a high percentage of blocky medium-sized thick-walled green fruits ripening to red. North Star has sufficient foliage cover to prevent sunburn. If you're ready to try for a red pepper that's a little classier than Ace, choose North Star. ABCDE

966 Banana Supreme (68 days) F-1 hybrid. Banana peppers are the sweet complement to Hungarian Hot Wax Peppers. You'll want clear labels *and* demarcations in your garden if you plant both since they look alike but definitely taste different. Color develops from green-yellow to yellow to red with advancing ripeness. For its disease resistance, prolific production, and large 7-8" fruits, Supreme was the best banana pepper in Nikos' impressive 1992 trials. ABCDE

967 Spanish Spice (70 days) F-1 hybrid. Despite its name, this one's not spicy at all. It is instead an outstanding Italian frying pepper—thin-walled and tapering with a deliciously rich flavor. Moreover, the plants are sturdy, keeping the large 7" fruits off the ground (a frequent failing of other fryers). Provides lots of green peppers and even a few red ones if you have either skill or luck. After years of trialing Italian fryers without finding full satisfaction, Nikos finally has one that she can recommend without reservation. Resistant to TMV. ABCDE

969 Green Boy (82 days) F-1 hybrid. Agway hybrid received the highest rating in the University of Maine bell pepper evaluations. Blocky 3-4 lobed fruits with medium-thick flesh. ABCDE

1001 Elisa (70 days) F-1 hybrid. Nikos searched years for a pepper to replace Ringer and this one might be a "dead ringer." Early maturity, tolerance to cool conditions, and big beautiful fruit ranging from deep blocky green to elongated red made this a standout in 1993's extensive trials. Resistant to potato virus Y, tobacco etch virus and tobacco mosaic virus. Tolerant to stip. ABCDE

1003 Valencia (72 days) F-1 hybrid. Its impressive rich orange fruit at maturity will turn heads at potlucks, markets or fair exhibition halls. Valencia bears four-lobed, blocky, 4x4" fruit on plants with good foliage cover. Resistant to tobacco mosaic virus and stip. ABCDE

1004 Vidi (72 days) F-1 hybrid. From M. Schultz in Washington to Ken Fine in Maine, Vilmorin's Vidi received raves from coast to coast. Schultz rated it tops among over 30 varieties in her trial, reporting 33 huge peppers on one bush! Market grower Fine called it "big, beautiful, real blocky, and kind of long in the European style." Fills the need for an early marketable bell pepper which will reliably turn intense red without deformities. ABCDE

1006 Orobelle (74 days) F-1 hybrid. All you pepper aficionadoes who have been clamoring for more color in our selection will love Orobelle's golden sweet thick-walled blocky fruit. Its early setting ability under cool conditions and its good fruit coverage have made Orobelle a standard. Resistant to potato virus Y, tobacco mosaic virus and stip. ABCDE

1007 Portos (74 days) F-1 hybrid, also known as Hybrid 860. Who names these varieties, anyway? They couldn't have come up with a less appealing name, but don't be fooled, this is one great pepper! Since 1993 when Portos was the star of our trials, we've been chomping at the bit to find untreated seed. Eureka! we have it now, and you need it if you are looking for a prolific producer of high quality 4-lobed green bell fruits which turn brilliant yellow at full maturity. Its strong plant cover, yield potential, blocky shape and very thick walls make Portos a standout. We think many of you who asked us for Gold Crest Pepper will find Portos comparable. NEW! ABCDE

HOT PEPPERS

Popularity of hot peppers has increased dramatically in recent years, and per capita consumption of chiles in the US now exceeds that of peas, asparagus and cauliflower. Retail sales of salsas have surpassed those of catsup! One theory advanced to explain this trend holds that hot pepper eaters enjoy the "constrained risk" of a pleasant thrill which, unlike other addictive substances like alcohol, tobacco or coffee, has only a short-term effect and is not health-threatening! Capsaicin compounds cause most of the heat in peppers. Warm nighttime temperatures stimulate maximum development of capsaicins and increase pungency levels. Pungency is expressed in Scoville units, after Wilbur Scoville, an Englishman who devised the method used from the early 1900s until about 1980 to measure the heat in peppers.

Roberta Bunker has taken up the banner for hot peppers, trialing 23 for us, and raising seed crops for two at her Super Chilly Farm (so named for her love for chiles and the propensity of her grounds to catch all the early frosts).

916 Hungarian Hot Wax (68 days) This semi-hot type was requested by numerous customers. Hot yellow 5½x1½" fruits are smooth, waxy, tapering to a point. Sets even in cool weather. 700 to 3,000 Scovilles. ABCDE

919 Early Jalapeño (75 days) Hot, hot, 3x1" sausage-shaped blunt fruits mature early. Packing the seed makes us teary-eyed! 4,000 to 6,500 Scoville units at maturity. ABCDE

920 Long Red Narrow Cayenne (75 days) Often curled and twisted, peppers grow 5-6" long, ½" across, and taper to a point. Dark green color changes to bright red. Prolific and hot. 3,500 to 5,000 Scovilles. ABCDE

921 Anaheim (78 days) Anaheim is the pepper used for chiles rellenos. 7" long fruits tapering to a point turn from dark-green to red at maturity. Pungent, but not particularly hot. 900 to 2,500 Scovilles. ABCDE

923 Ancho 101 (85 days) Known as Ancho when dried, Poblano when used fresh, this Mexican favorite is wonderfully versatile. Uniform 4x2" thin-walled dark green fruits mature into a deep red. Shaped like a pointed bell with 2 to 3 lobes. Wrinkled peppers have little heat in the flesh, storing their mildly pungent flavor in their pith and seeds. A heavy cropper in hot climates, Ancho is not "peppered with peppers" in northerly climes like ours. Take care to start them early and protect the first blooms in order to equal or better their average yield here of four fruits per plant. 1,500-4,000 Scoville units. NEW! ABCDE

924 Habanero (90 days) Bring this to your hot pepper eating contest and you will weed out the faint of heart! Also known as Scotch Bonnet, it is reputed to be the hottest pepper in cultivation, registering a blistering 200,000-350,000 Scoville units, depending on how hot the growing season, from 30-80 times as hot as an Early Jalapeño. Each 1½' plant will set 10-20 pendulous fruits which turn from dark green to tangerine as they mature. Fruits are somewhat wrinkled from stem to tip, with a distinct flavor you will always recognize once you've tasted them. First known in the West Indies as a key ingredient in jerk sauce. We've been hesitant to list it as most northern areas are too cold for it to thrive outdoors; it requires temperatures of at least 70°. We recommend greenhouse culture for the northern two-thirds of our sales area where productivity outdoors would be at best erratic and at worst nonexistent. NEW! ABC; D=$2.50, E=$15.00

971 Mexibell (70 days) F-1 hybrid. Red Sox fans, ask not for whom the Belle tolls, it tolls for thee! Why a baseball joke in a seed catalog? Because we're trying to sell some pepper seed. Mexibell, a 1988 All-America winner, isn't stuffed with cork, but it does contain a bit of a surprise. It is shaped like a bell pepper, but unlike other bells it has some heat, especially in its ribs. Will make a good dish of Mexican hot stuffed peppers, or a surprise at the crudité table. Alas, it has proven a slow mover, and we will drop it unless sales pick up. Customers, ask not for whom this bell tolls, it tolls for thee! 2,500 Scoville units. ABCDE

973 Garden Salsa (73 days) F-1 hybrid. If the thought of ingesting habanero makes you wince, Garden Salsa may be more your style. Bred for those who complain that other salsa varieties are too hot, Garden Salsa's full-bodied sweet pepper flavor comes through without being drowned by capsaicin overload. A great cooking pepper, its fruits provide plenty of kick in homemade salsas. Large plants bear up to a dozen beautiful glossy tapered 8" fruits that ripen to red, but are often harvested in the green stage for making salsa. A consistent performer during three years of trials, often bearing under difficult conditions when others balked. 2,500-3,500 Scovilles. NEW! ABCDE

974 Super Chili (75 days) F-1 hybrid. I will not soon forget this one at our 1990 pepper taste test at Jeanne Griffin's. It took a lot of milk to bank the lingering fires! It was the hottest of all the varieties we tried and ranks 4th on Petoseed's hot 20 with 40,000-50,000 Scoville units. The plants, covered with dozens of green and red 2x½" pointy peppers, are highly ornamental. Bears prolifically whether summers are wet or dry, hot or cold. 1988 All-America winner. ABCDE

1000 Hot Portugal (64 days) Bears elongated narrow fruits, 5-8" long, 1" in diameter with the classic wrinkled hip at the stem end. Superb pepper flavor comes through its considerable heat nicely. Not as hot as Super Chili, but hotter than Early Jalapeño. Early, productive ripener of glossy scarlet fruits borne on tall plants. A favorite of Roberta Bunker who grew the seed organically. ABCDE

1009 Thai Hot (82 days) Believe it or not, this one is grown "in the trade" as a red and green Christmas pot plant. However, devoted followers of hot cuisine prize the sparks it creates. Early pinching will produce a bushy 8" plant that can be pulled, roots and all, and hung to dry for winter use. Or grow it inside in a basket for both ornamental and edible enjoyment. Seed organically grown in Maine by Roberta Bunker. ABCDE

PHYSALIS

925-926: A=½g, 55¢; B=1g, 90¢, C=2g, $1.50; D=4g, $2.20, E=28g, $4.40

925 Husk Cherry (77 days) *P. pruinosa* Also known as Ground Cherry. Same genus as Chinese Lantern and tomatillo, bearing fruits which ripen inside their protective husks. As clusters of berries sweeten, they turn from green to golden yellow. Often they will drop off the decorative branching plants before full maturity and reach perfection as their husks thin to a near-gossamer papery consistency. The berries have an indescribable nutty flavor that kids love for raw snacks. Grown-up kids will often go back for more, too. Culture like tomatoes, transplanting after last spring frost. Husk cherries will tolerate a touch of frost but give up when temperatures dip below 30°. In a good year, about half will ripen in time. Will readily self sow, although volunteers never mature as quickly as those started indoors. Seed grown organically in Vermont. ABCD.

926 Toma Verde Tomatillo (77 days) Large-fruited and uniform strain. Golf ball-size green fruits encased in papery husks are harvested for making salsa when paper splits. They can be eaten raw for a tangy, nutty taste if allowed to turn slightly yellow, but will split before becoming fully yellow. ABCD; E=$6.00

TOMATOES

.2 gram packet about 60 seeds, quarter gram 75 seeds, half gram 150 seeds, 9,000 seeds per oz. Tender, cannot tolerate frost. Must be started indoors Feb.-Apr. Require warm temperatures to germinate. Avoid using hot manure as it causes lush foliage with few ripe fruits. However, generous use of well-rotted compost or cow or horse manure will greatly boost plant vigor and yields. Heavy phosphorus needs. Respond well to foliar sprays. Determinate (det) bush varieties may be staked, normally should not be pruned. Indeterminate (ind) climbing varieties are customarily staked and pruned. Caging without pruning delays ripening, reduces fruit size but increases production, prevents sunburn and reduces fruit cracking and rotting. Staking and pruning produces earlier larger fruits. One reason not to stake or prune (besides sheer laziness!) is that foliage will give fruits some protection against light September frosts. Large-fruited varieties with low fruit set and high sugar content are most prone to crack. To reduce cracking: avoid heavy watering, large fluctuations in day/night temperatures and maintain adequate calcium levels in your soil.

We place a heavy emphasis on rich flavor and diverse colors in our tomato trials. In 1995, Roberta Bunker, Alison LaCourse, David Felch and I grew 83 different varieties with many repetitions. The rich cultural heritage of the many colorful heirlooms speaks for itself. Who could fail to be enchanted with names like Cherokee Purple, Dad's Mug, Cosmonaut Volkov, Hillbilly, Mortgage Lifter, Prize of the Trials, Dad's Barber, Snowball and Stump of the World?

See also #1030 & 1032.

927-937: A=½g, 55¢; B=1g, 90¢, C=2g, $1.50; D=4g, $2.00, E=28g, $4.00

940-957: A=¼g, 80¢; B=½g, $1.40, C=1g, $2.60; D=2g, $5.00, E=4g, $9.00

979-999: A=0.2g, 90¢; B=0.4g, $1.75; C=1g, $3.60, D=2g, $6.30, E=4g, $11.50

Except Where Noted!

927 Oregon Spring (58 days) Det. Recommended as a "hedge" in northern climates for cold summers like 1986 and 1992. In those seasons when most other varieties failed to ripen in time, Oregon Spring matured good-sized fruit in August. Oregon Spring actually seems to perform best during cool summers, and to develop more cosmetic defects in the heat and humidity. It bears succulent almost seedless fruits of Russian parentage, up to 4" but somewhat variable in size. Unusually good tasting for such an early variety. Bred and developed by Dr. James R. Baggett of Oregon State University and grown by Tim Peters. Potato-leaf foliage. Not suitable for market growers. AB

928 Ida Gold (59 days) Det. Often these delightful orange 2-bite low-acid fruits are the first tomatoes to ripen for us. They are early and prolific even in bad tomato years. Developed specially for the North by the University of Idaho, this treat is catching on! An indifferent performer in so-so soil, but a bountiful yielder when fed compost and rotted manure. ABCD; E=$10.00

929 German Johnson (70 days) Ind. A mid-size pink Pennsylvania Dutch heirloom which surprised us with its rich tomato flavor in our 1994 trial. Very uniform and attractive for an heirloom variety, the 6-8 oz. slightly oblate low-acid fruits started ripening early and kept coming steadily. German Johnson's interplay of subtle flavors makes for a robust tomato-ey taste. Johnson is one of the four parents of heirloom Mortgage Lifter, a larger pink variety which performed well in our 1993 trial. Mortgage Lifter tastes good; German Johnson is even better. ABC; D=$2.50, E=$15.00

930 Bonny Best (75 days) Ind. Also known as John Baer. Always one of the richest tasting in our trials, this venerable heirloom variety is a fine home garden type. Too prone to catfacing for market growers and too soft to stand much handling, but great for eating whole right in the garden. ABCDE

931 Green Zebra (80 days) Ind. A most unusual beast in the tomato menagerie, this zebra starts out green with dark green stripes, blushing yellow when it ripens. It might have remained a mere curiosity, but for its scrumptious sweet rich flavor. 4-5 oz. small-medium fruits are emerald green inside. Perfect exteriors don't crack, hold up under adverse conditions and are strikingly different. Could be a hit with your kids or on your stand. NEW! ABC; D=$2.50, E=$15.00

932 Goldie (90 days) Ind. We believe Goldie is the best orange open-pollinated tomato. For two years in a row we've been impressed how it delivers its rich flavor with an exceptional velvety texture. Deep orange beefsteak fruits with a little red streaking on the bottom average 8-10 oz. Heirloom dates from the early 1800s. NEW! ABC; D=$2.50, E=$15.00

934 Gardener's Delight Cherry (68 days) Ind. Gardener's Delight often ripens just when Whippersnapper is through. Its larger size, deep red color and rich sweet flavor also contrast with Whippersnapper. The large plants need staking and will bear till frost. The fruits are so wonderful that I can overlook their annoying tendency to crack. ABC; D=$2.50, E=$15.00

935 Principe Borghese Cherry (75 days) Vigorous det. Bears small fruits in prolific clusters over a long season. An Italian variety of excellent flavor used for sun-dried tomatoes as it has few seeds and little juice. In our humid climate, you will need a solar dryer or a 100° oven to successfully dry the fruits. Also makes a tasty sauce, although you'd need a lot of the little tomatoes! ABCD; E=$10.00

937 Yellow Plum (72 days) Ind. We've nibbled on these meaty little gems for years. Unlike the pear types, they don't crack or succumb easily to disease. ABCD; E=$6.00

MAINE-GROWN ORGANIC TOMATOES

We are pleased to have again expanded our selection of open-pollinated tomato varieties. All the seed in this section is from organically grown crops by Fedco staff and trial growers. Those who have viewed the tomato diversity displays at our Common Ground Fair booth have seen a sampling of our work as well as a sneak preview of where we're headed in selecting heirloom tomato varieties for our seed program. That display, along with our apple and potato variety displays, earned us a ribbon at the 1995 Common Ground Fair for the most educational booth in the agriculture area.

940 Glacier (56 days) Det. The Canadian seed company which used to supply us with this popular early small tomato disappeared! So we took control of our own seed production. Glacier ripens around the same time as the sub-arctics with about the same size, and almost no cosmetic defects except yellow shoulders, but there the comparisons end. Glacier's rich tomato flavor relegates the insipid sub-arctics to the compost pile. It is also far superior to the highly touted Siberia tomato, to Stupice, to Early Temptation and, in fact, to every other tomato in the same class that we've tried. Susan MacLeod, in the NOFA-NH News, agrees: Glacier tomatoes are "early ripening and the best flavor I've come across yet." ABCDE

943 Sochulak (70 days) Ind. Very heavy early yields of oblate pink fruit with a meaty texture suitable for eating or cooking. Won our paste tomato taste test hands down. This heirloom, pronounced suh-*coo*-luk, came from Italy to Maine three generations ago where it was maintained by a family in Washington County. Sixteen years ago Roberta Bunker received a sample. Over the years she has selected it for earliness and disease resistance. Although it is still not blemish free, it is a fine choice for home gardeners. Oxheart type grows medium to very large size and quickly fills up the sauce pot. Introduced by Fedco Seeds, and now catching on fast with our customers. ABCDE

944 Garden Peach (71 days) Ind. Sweet! That's the initial reaction of virtually everyone tasting Garden Peach. The sensation of my 1993 tomato trials, this 100-year-old heirloom is well named. Its small 2 oz. fruits blush pink when ripe and have fuzzy skins somewhat like peaches. Relatively early, prolific, soft-skinned, juicy. I grow fonder of these each year. ABCDE

945 Black Prince (75 days) Ind. Closely akin to Black Krim, but its smooth round fruits much smaller (5-7 oz.) and look much more appealing. Most are sufficiently uniform for the roadside stand. Flavor is variable, most are good but not quite as rich tasting as Krim, with an occasional set of watery, insipid fruit. From Irkutsk, Siberia. NEW! ABCDE

946 Moira (76 days) Det. Main crop bush beefsteak type for the North. Fruits uniform about 6 oz. with deep red color. Has far fewer defects than other open-pollinated determinate types but did not impress us in our taste test and we are considering dropping it in favor of tastier heirlooms. ABCDE

948 Black Krim (80 days) Ind. If you think a tomato should be round, red and cosmetically perfect, steer clear! Black Krim scales the heights and wallows in the depths: at its best a striking iridescent purple, at its worst a hunk of road-kill. Most Black Krims have dark green-black shoulders with pronounced catfacing. Interiors are part black, too, with an unusual juicy yet meaty taste and texture. They taste best when they are dead ripe, which means blackish-red on the bottom and so soft one can hardly get them from garden to table intact! Throw away all your preconceptions and prepare for an adventure! Black Krim is a wonderful example of just how diverse the tomato can be. From Krymsk on the Black Sea in Russia. Our original seed stock came from Martha Gottlieb, an avid seed saver who coordinates the Exhibition Hall at Common Ground Fair. ABCDE

949 Brandywine (82 days) Ind. with potato-leaf foliage. This deservedly famous Amish heirloom dating from 1885 sets 8-10 oz. pink fruits with a hint of tartness and a dollop of good old-fashioned tomato flavor. Although fruits ripen unevenly throughout the season, at least a few will be quite early for such a large tomato. Brandywine was one of the finds of our 1990 trial. It is rarely offered commercially. Arguably it is the best-tasting pink or red tomato. Tomato collector Ben Quisenberry thought so and so do I. Had the biggest 1994 sales increase of any variety on our list, and then another healthy jump in 1995. We just can't keep it in stock, and actually turned down a request from Burpee for a half pound of seed in Feb '95. ABCDE

950 White Potato Leaf (85 days) Ind: A wonderful example of tomato diversity, these large yellow-white fruits don't taste like tomatoes. Instead they have a tart, almost vinegary, zip. Comments at our trial: "Almost like eating a lemon." "Put these in your salad and you won't need the dressing." Makes an excellent white tomato sauce. An unusual novelty. NEW! ABCDE

952 Ruby Gold (90 days) Ind. Our first striped tomato, as aesthetically appealing as it is delicious. Its prolific beautiful huge yellow fruits streaked with red and marbled interior flesh stole the show in our 1994 heirloom taste test. No wonder famed tomato aficionado Ben Quisenberry included Ruby Gold in his collection. Ours grew to 14 oz., but the mice didn't leave a single one unscathed. They know a good one. Fruits somewhat prone to crack and not always cosmetically perfect. Seed organically grown by Alison LaCourse. Limited crop; order early. NEW! ABC

953 Whippersnapper Cherry (52 days) Det. No other cherry tomato is quite like Whippersnapper. Its pinkish-red tart fruits ripen earlier than any other cherries. Not disease resistant, it should be followed by a later sweeter more vigorous variety. ABCDE

955 Heinz 2653 (68 days) Det. An amazingly early red plum type which often ripens all its 2½-3 oz. fruits before frost. Firm fruits for cooking, on compact plants. Heavy yields early. ABCDE

956 Grandma Mary's (68 days) Ind. Introduced by us in 1992, Grandma quickly zoomed to the top of our sales charts. And no wonder–its meaty 6-10 oz. fruits are unsurpassed for sauce making and very early for their size. It produced ripe fruit even in the cold summers of 1986 and 1992. Seed from this heirloom was selected for 6 years for earliness and fruit size by Jeanne Griffin, who grew the seed in Sangerville. Drought caused short crop in 1995; order early. A

957 Bellstar (74 days) Det. We had so many requests for its return that we have raised our own seed crops the past four years. Bred at Smithfield Experiment Farm in Ontario and introduced in 1981. Red 4 oz. round paste tomatoes are much larger than most others of this type. Delicious flavor is also good in salads. Ripening is spread over a long season. ABCDE

HYBRID TOMATOES

979 Early Cascade (66 days) Ind. Always very impressive. Begins producing 4 oz. fruits very early, and keeps on till frost and beyond. Has delicious taste despite exceedingly firm thick skin. Holds quality on vine a long time. Good disease resistance. Needs staking. A favorite market variety. ABCDE

981 Enchantment (68 days) Ind. Egg-shaped pointed fruits, called "saladette" in the supermarket, look like paste tomatoes but are more suitable for eating in salads or out of hand than for processing. Multiple disease resistance. Jim Waltrip, our Petoseed sales rep, once rated Enchantment as the best-tasting tomato. While I wouldn't go that far, I believe Enchantment is one of the most underrated varieties on our list. And it is very early. ABCDE

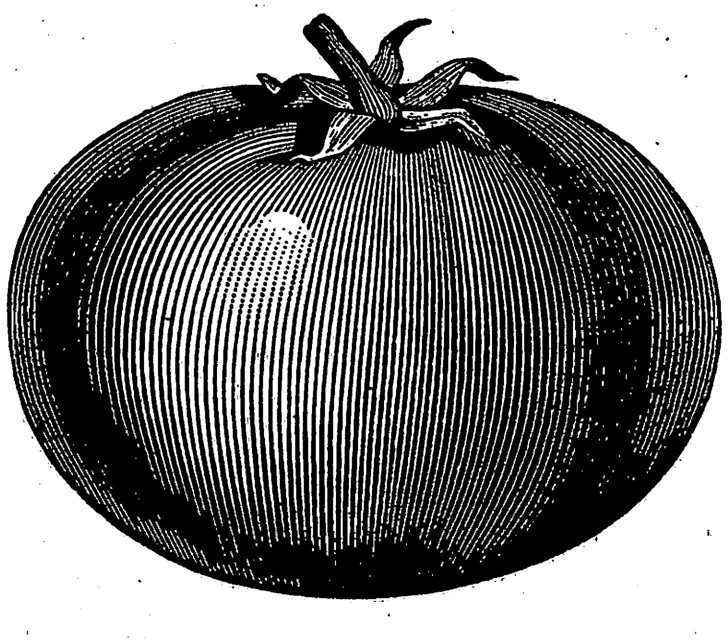
982 First Lady (70 days) Ind. Early Girl fans will want to check out First Lady's good-tasting round 4-5 oz. fruits bred for the home garden. They color early, and keep coming all season because First Lady has excellent disease resistance. ABCDE

984 Jackpot (71 days) Det. Jackpot is an excellent early variety for the North, setting impeccable 8 oz fruits with decent tomato flavor. ABCDE

985 Firebird (71 days) Ind. Always among the best early pink tomatoes in our trials, Firebird sets 6-8 oz. globe-shaped, almost blemish-free fruits with a deep, rich flavor which will send you back for more. Although pink tomatoes have yet to catch on, once you try Firebird you may agree with my neighbor Ellen Paul that it is the only tomato you need to grow. ABCDE

986 Jet Star (72 days) Compact ind. I wasn't surprised when Jet Star shot right to the top of our tomato sales in its first year in our catalog. Year after year it headed the list of customer suggestions but until 1992 it was unavailable—a Harris-Moran exclusive. Year after year it was also the best early full-size tomato in our trials, distinguished for its early ripening cosmetically perfect fruits of outstanding flavor. It is a heavy producer of 7-8 oz. globes. Our favorite tomato for market growers. ABC

987 Big Beef (75 days) Ind. Many beefsteak varieties are ugly, oversized, mealy balls of fluff. But Big Beef takes away my beef about beefsteaks because it looks great and actually tastes like a tomato. Moreover, it is a real workhorse producer of 10 oz. spotless fruits which start ripening early and keep coming till frost. This large vigorous plant should please both market growers and home gardeners and it certainly pleased the judges who made it a 1994 All-America winner. Big Beef's bred-in resistance to verticillium wilt, fusarium wilt races 1 and 2, alternaria stem canker, stemphylium, nematodes and tobacco mosaic virus helps its sustained performance. Big Beef was such a success for its breeders at Petoseed that they grew enough seed to fill almost 3 million packets in 1995! ABCDE



988 Celebrity (78 days) Det. 1983 All-America winner from Petoseed deserved award for its impressive seedling vigor and its flavorful, firm 7 oz. fruits. Wide disease resistance. Best-looking tomato seedlings I've ever raised. A favorite of both home gardeners and commercial growers. ABCDE

993 Golden Boy (88 days) Ind. Over the years Golden Boy has convinced many folks that a tomato doesn't have to be red to be good. In fact, Golden Boy is not just good, it has been at or near the top of each of our tomato taste tests. The deep color and rich flavor of its 8-10 oz. golden yellow fruits make Taxi seem bland by comparison. Because GB's fruits usually develop blemishes if allowed to fully vine-ripen, we recommend picking them slightly underripe and allowing them to finish in the kitchen. ABCDE

995 Sun Gold Cherry (57 days) Ind. The secret is out. Sun Gold is the best cherry tomato ever developed, a perfect combination of deep sweetness with a hint of acid tartness. Its small fruits, borne in prolific clusters, ripen very early to a rich apricot color. We popped 'em in our mouths by the pound and all but kept up with the amazing production of 10 plants! Sun Gold has made our cherry tomato trials obsolete. It is the only one we want to eat. AB

997 Sweet Chelsea Cherry (68 days) Ind. Even sweeter and heavier-yielding than our old favorite Sweet Cherry. Round fruits are larger than most other cherries, yet produce luscious fruit of almost impeccable appearance relatively early and throughout the season. Wide disease resistance, including TMV. ABC

999 Super Sweet 100 Cherry (78 days) Ind. Like Sweet 100, only with more disease resistance. Very popular hybrid cherry tomato ripens clusters of 1" round sweet fruits. Should be staked. We like it the best of all the red cherries. Will split in rainy conditions. ABC

DISCOUNTED SPECIALS

The descriptions explain our reasons for carrying and then dropping these cultivars. We know you love bargains and we hate to disappoint you. We run out of most discounted specials during our February rush. Please order early.

1012 Rattlesnake Pole Bean (70 days) Purple streakings on the pods resemble the markings of a rattlesnake. We were snake-bit by the lack of sales for this intriguing heirloom producer of round 6-7" pods. We have 8# of seed that won't last past the early orders. B=2oz, 60¢; C=½lb, $1.80.

1014 Seneca Horizon Sweet Corn (71 days) Yellow hybrid from Robson has good eating for an early corn, but is not as tender as our replacement, Spring Treat. We have 55# left. B=2oz, 60¢; C=½lb, $1.80.

1015 Pristine Sweet Corn (80 days) Despite its yummy 8" ears, this white hybrid was never a hit because maturity was too close to that of Platinum Lady. Now we offer a much earlier white, Spring Snow. 40# of Pristine remain. B=2oz, 60¢; C=½lb, $1.80.

1018 Luther Hill Sweet Corn (82 days) In the 1950s before hybrids took over, Luther Hill was the most popular sweet corn in New Jersey, but present-day customers seem to prefer hybrids. Almost no one tried this white open-pollinated corn, even though we like the quality of its 5" ears and the economy of its modest 4' stalk. Seed biodynamically grown for us in Wisconsin. B=2oz, 60¢; C=½lb, $1.80.

1020 Sparkle Shell Peas (55 days) Early short-vined (1½-2') pea which makes concentrated sets of fat 3" pods. We think the flavor of our replacement, Coral, is superior to Sparkle. Hurry if you want to get in on our last 10#. Germ 86%. B=2oz, 60¢; C=½lb, $1.80.

1022 Kidma Middle Eastern Cucumber (59 days) F-1 hybrid. We're still looking for the ideal replacement for our very popular Hylares. Kidma's glossy green smooth-skinned fruits are crisper, more uniform and much more prolific than Hylares but lack the refreshing taste we crave. We have 277 packets with 88% germination. A=1g, 50¢.

1025 Rollinson's Telegraph Cucumber (60 days) A type of European cucumber with long (10-12") slim smooth-skinned fruits of very delicate mild flavor, never bitter. Vines must be trellised to avoid curved and misshapen fruits. Very different texture from American cucumbers. In Telegraph Improved we've found a suitable substitute with a better line of supply. We have nearly a pound of seed left for Rollinson's and don't expect to run out this year. A=½g, 50¢.

1026 Large Bottle Gourd (120 days) We're not giving up on this wonderful birdhouse gourd. But the seed never arrives before February, making it a perennial backorder. We plan to start ordering one year ahead, but the 1994 seed crop which we're selling off germinates at only 72%, 3% below federal standard. We'll get the 1995 crop in 1996 to sell in 1997, provided it has the viability and vigor we're seeking. 185 packets remain; if you snooze, you lose. A=¼oz, 50¢.

1027 Scarlet Keeper Carrot (85 days) Our friend John Navazio at Garden City Seeds tells us that this variety is suffering from inbreeding depression and and has declined in quality. We've had some feedback that this lot of seed did not produce the 8-9" roots with broad red shoulders and large cores for which it was noted in the 1970s. Seed organically grown. 166 packets left if you wish to try your luck. 72% germination. A=1g, 50¢.

1030 Earlirouge Tomato (65 days) Det. Our research has uncovered better quality early heirloom tomatoes with more flavor than Earlirouge and less susceptibility to early blight disease. 6 oz. fruits round to slightly oblate, deep crimson flesh, very sweet, almost crack free. We have 125 packets of Earlirouge left. Save your own seed. Grown organically by staffer Alison LaCourse. A=¼g, 50¢.

1032 Big Girl Tomato (85 days) F-1 hybrid. Ind. Big Beef, an earlier provider of attractive large bright tomatoes, more than adequately replaces this famous Burpee hybrid. Big girls don't cry, we hope you won't either when we drop them from our list. Order early to get in on the last 135 packets. *Caution: may not ripen in northernmost areas*. A=.2g, 50¢.

1034 Salad Burnet *Poterium sanguisorba* The leaves of this perennial lend a cucumber flavor to salads, vinegars and cold drinks. Plant starts growing early spring and keeps on till snowfall, reaching 1'. Lacks sufficient sales for us to retain it (only 132 packets in 1995). Too bad, we think it is a worthy herb deserving a better fate. Only 75 packets left at 88% germ. Better hurry. A=1g, about 175 seeds, 50¢.

1036 Dwarf Friendship Mix Painted Tongue *Salpiglossis sinuata* This old-fashioned 15" cutflower and Fleuroselect novelty winner has been replaced by a more refined version. A mix of bright colors—purple, raspberry, yellow and reds—on delicate trumpet-shaped blooms with exquisite veins and markings. We're selling off the last 200 packets. 58% germination; below federal standard. A=.2g, about 860 seeds, 50¢.

1038 Extra Double Mix Portulaca *P. grandiflora* Shades of pink, rose, apricot, yellow and white on succulent low-spreading 6" plants. This mix was an adequate performer in our 1995 trial, but was not as good as its replacements. We have over 350 packets at 83% germination for those who can't resist a bargain. Easy to grow, can stand heat. Start in warm spot. Needs light to germinate. A=.2g, about 1,840 seeds, 50¢.

1040 Gloxiniaflora Mix Digitalis *D. purpurea* Also known as Foxglove. Favorite old perennial with 3-5' stalks crowded with large drooping thimble-like flowers. Good in backgrounds or borders. We've replaced with Foxy Mix, a better performer. We'll sell the last 100 packets cheap. Likes partial sun. 70% germination. A=.25g, about 2,600 seeds, 50¢.

Seeds per packet for herbs are approximate. They are intended as guides, not guarantees, because we pack by weight, not by count. **Packet weight is listed with each herb and flower; for B and C weights, please consult grid order form.** Some herbs are customarily grown from divisions or cuttings because they cannot come true from seed or require fall sowing of fresh seed. Among them are French tarragon, scented thymes, chocolate peppermint, sweet cicely and angelica.
A botanical index appears on p. 43.

CULINARY HERBS

For 1996 we have divided our herbs into two sections: culinary and medicinal. Several listed in the culinary section also have healing uses (Mint, Rosemary, Sage) and many others owe their traditional culinary use to digestive or preservative properties. Available in three sizes except where noted.
1054-1149: A=60¢, B=$1.50, C=$5.00

BASIL *Ocimum basilicum*

Indispensable culinary herb has been in cultivation for more than 3,000 years. Direct seed when soil warms in late spring or transplant after danger of frost. Young seedlings heavily watered in cool cloudy conditions are vulnerable to damping off. Water sparingly at first. Use Reemay to enhance early season vigor and speed maturity. Harvest before plants blossom.

1054 Sweet The heaviest-yielding variety, recommended for drying, all-around great eating, and large-scale pesto production. Our best-selling herb, over 2,400 packets last season. Pkt=4g, about 2,400 seeds. 17,750 seeds/oz.

1055 Genovese The choice of many connoisseurs for making pesto. Also called Perfumed Basil. Leaves are slightly smaller and finer than Sweet Basil with more aroma and potency. "Talk about prolific and tasty, and it took transplanting really well," says Susan MacLeod of NOFA-NH. Pkt=2g, about 1,450 seeds. 20,500 seeds/oz.

1057 Mammoth This lettuce-leaf type has very large ruffled leaves which make it a good choice for drying or stuffing. Flavor similar to sweet basil. Pkt=1g, about 600 seeds. 17,000 seeds/oz.

1059 Small Leaf *O.b. minimum* Also known as piccolo basil. Is generally used fresh because of its small size and strong Italian flavor. Plants spaced 6" apart will grow like small shrubs. A good variety to bring indoors in fall. Pkt=.5g, about 375 seeds. 21,000 seeds/oz.

1062 Spicy Bush *O. b. minimum* Very similar to Spicy Globe which is unavailable, this marvelous little basil grows to about 8" and maintains a compact mound of light green leaves and white flowers. Its leaves are small, thin and strong scented. Great as an ornamental border, in a windowbox, or as an indoor potted plant which can be snipped for culinary use. Pkt.=.5g, about 420 seeds. 24,000 seeds/oz.

1065 Anise Originally from Persia. Vigorous mulberry-tinted basil with anise fragrance makes highly decorative, tall, bushy plant. Slow to bolt. Great in Italian tomato sauces. Also used in Thai and various Mediterranean cuisines. Pkt=.5g, about 330 seeds. 18,800 seeds/oz.

1068 Cinnamon Similar vigorous growth habit to anise basil, but with a purplish veining on its leaves, and a distinctive cinnamon scent. Use in Middle Eastern or Greek cuisine. Pkt=.5g, about 300 seeds. 17,000 seeds/oz.

1071 Lemon *O.b. citriodorum* Basil often used in bouquets for its intense lemon fragrance. Not a very vigorous grower. Easily succumbs to blight. Great in fish dishes. Native to Thailand and Southeast Asia and featured in their cuisine. Pkt=.5g, about 375 seeds. 21,000 seeds/oz.

1074 Red Rubin Growers have found it to be more vigorous than Purple Ruffles. Highly ornamental dark purplish-bronze foliage. The green leaf throwbacks have been mostly bred out of this improved strain. A salad of red basil leaves and yellow tomatoes is stunning for its color contrast. Pkt=.5g, about 375 seeds. 21,000 seeds/oz.

1077 Purple Ruffles Deep purple plants with serrated and crinkled leaves for striking visual contrast in the herb garden. Not a vigorous grower in our climate but will reach a height of 18" in the heat of summer. An All-America winner. Pkt=.5g, about 350 seeds. 19,750 seeds/oz.

1092 Chervil *Anthriscus cerefolium* Superior European strain of this annual grows vigorously and is slow to bolt. Delicate lacy leaves with distinct flavor good in soups, with fish or asparagus. Essential ingredient in mesclun. Direct seed before a rain in early spring or summer. In warmer locations performs best as a fall crop. Pkt=1g, about 440 seeds. 12,500 seeds/oz.

1095 Chives *Allium schoenoprasum* Hardy perennial 1-3' hollow grasslike leaves enhance any dish with their subtle onion flavor. Lilac-colored flowers bloom in June and July, lovely in arrangements fresh or dried, also can be eaten. Needs sun and well-drained soil. Seeds may be sown in fall or spring, clumps can be divided every other year for best production. Can be brought inside for the winter. Pkt=.5g, about 450 seeds. 26,000 seeds/oz.

1098 Cilantro *Coriandrum sativum* Useful for its fresh green foliage and for its dried seeds (coriander). Its flowers can also be eaten. This strain does not bolt as readily as those intended for seed production. Produces leaves in generous quantity which are an essential flavoring in Indian, Chinese and Latin American cooking. Although some people do not care for its odor, in the right settings it imparts a wonderful flavor. Annual grows to 2' with rosy lavender blooms. Sow in spring; will not stand transplanting. In warm locations will stand longest as a fall crop. Thin early. Will self sow. Our second most popular herb, with over 1900 packets sold in 1995. Pkt=2g, about 120 seeds. 1,700 seeds/oz.

DILL *Anethum graveolens*

Name derived from the Norse dilla, meaning to lull, as the plant is said to have soothing properties. In colonial times, small children were given handfuls of dill seed to chew to keep them quiet during long Sunday sermons! Annual, sometimes classed as biennial, grows to 4'. Upright plant branches out from single stalk; the feathery leaves known as dill weed. Likes full sun, well-drained soil. Sow seeds in spring. Will self sow.

1100 Bouquet Bouquet is usually grown for dill weed production because its leaves are sweeter and more refined than those of the Mammoth strain. Foliage should be harvested early, before seed stalks mature. Growers will like its performance in packs. Pkt=4g, about 2,800 seeds. 20,000 seeds/oz.

1102 Fernleaf 1992 All-America winner. A dwarf variety suitable for small gardens or patio containers, Fernleaf grows only half as tall as other varieties and is very slow to go to seed. As of September, most of our May planting had not yet bolted, and its abundant, piquant foliage was still suitable for harvesting. Multibranching plants spread 18" to 2'. Pkt=.5 gram, about 470 seeds. 26,500 seeds/oz.

1103 Mammoth Variety generally grown for its seeds. Can also be used as dill weed, but the foliage is darker, coarser and stronger-tasting than that of the Bouquet strain. Otherwise, differences between the two in plant height and habit were very subtle in our trial. Pkt=4g, about 2,800 seeds. 20,000 seeds/oz.

FENNEL *Foeniculum vulgare*

Perennial grown as an annual with a rich licoricey taste. Tender stalks and leaves are good for relishes, salads, and munching in the garden; leaves & seeds popular in France with fish. Seeds used in sweets, baked goods & beverages. Direct sow in spring when soil warms, in full sun. Keep row moist for good germination.

1106 Zefa Fino 3' with blue-green stems and feathery green leaves. This strain, bred at the Swiss Federal Research Station, is very slow bolting. A spring planting will stand almost all summer. Pkt=.5g, about 125 seeds. 7,000 seeds/oz.

1108 Bronze Slow grower with very thin stems is appreciated for its striking feathery bronze foliage. Decorative and delicious. An intriguing addition to mesclun and a favorite in our 1992 trials. Sow in spring; likes moisture. Seed organically grown. Pkt=.2g, about 60 seeds. 8,000 seeds/oz.

1114 Garlic Chives *Allium tuberosum* Also known as Chinese chives or Chinese leeks. 1' chive-like herb has strong garlic taste. Can be used as garlic substitute in salads and sautéed vegetables. White flowers may be eaten or used in dried arrangements. Sow thinly in spring, harvest sparingly till plants are vigorous. Perennial, but protect in cold areas. Easier to bring indoors for winter than chives. Pkt=.5g, about 105 seeds. 6,000 seeds/oz.

1130 Lovage *Levisticum officinale* Leaves have a taste reminiscent of celery, and are used to flavor soups, stews and casseroles. Second-year plants are best for drying. Formerly was used to mask the bitter herbs in medicinal concoctions. Umbelliferous perennial grows 3-6'. Likes good soil and shady, moist areas. Can be direct seeded in late summer or early fall. Pkt=.5g, about 145 seeds. 7,800 seeds/oz.

1132 Sweet Marjoram *Origanum majorana* Grown as an annual in the North. 1' plant with grey-green rounded leaves of such an enchanting sweet fragrance that they mesmerized me into pulling up competing adjacent bean plants so that I had easier access to the herb. Cut often to prevent flowering. Use fresh or dried. Seeds are slow to germinate. Sow indoors in the spring and transplant 8" apart in well-drained soil. Likes full sun. Pkt=1g, about 6,000 seeds. 169,600 seeds/oz.

1134 Green Magic Mexican Tea *Chenopodium botrys* In our search for the best epazote we found this close relative which we prefer to the better-known herb because it is milder in flavor and more ornamental, yet has much the same uses in Mexican bean dishes and sauces. Its foliage, though oakleaf-shaped rather than serrated, still emits the pleasing pungent aroma characteristic of epazote. Thrives in rich soil and full sun, growing up to waist high. Same family as lamb's quarters. Annual, will self sow. Pkt=.1 gram, about 500 seeds. 140,000 seeds/oz.

1135 Common Mint *Mentha spicata* Specific types of mint cannot be counted on to come true from seed. This is the common tea mint. Start indoors and transplant after danger of frost or direct seed in early fall. Needs light to germinate. Can be grown directly in pots indoors in winter. Pkt=.1g, about 1,200 seeds. 341,000 seeds/oz.

1136 Greek Oregano *Origanum heracleoticum* Although our wanderings and searchings have lasted only half as long as Odysseus's, the five years since we last found a source for the true culinary oregano seem like a long time, indeed. This is the oregano to use in pizzas and other Mediterranean dishes. Low-growing plant with fragrant dull green and purple leaves and white flowers. Start indoors in spring for best results. Likes full sun in light well-drained not very rich soils. Will lose potency if soil is overfed. Hardy in our climate with winter protection. Pkt=.05g, about 500 seeds. 301,000 seeds per oz. **BACK!**

1138 Rosemary *Rosmarinus officinalis* A tender perennial growing to 3-4'. Cannot withstand temperatures below 17°, may be wintered over indoors. Dark grey-green needle-like leaves conserve water, can be grown on dry soil. Blossoms range from deep blue to pale pink or white. Likes alkaline soil. Seeds slow to germinate, start indoors. Pkt=.1g, about 85 seeds. 24,450 seeds/oz. AB only.

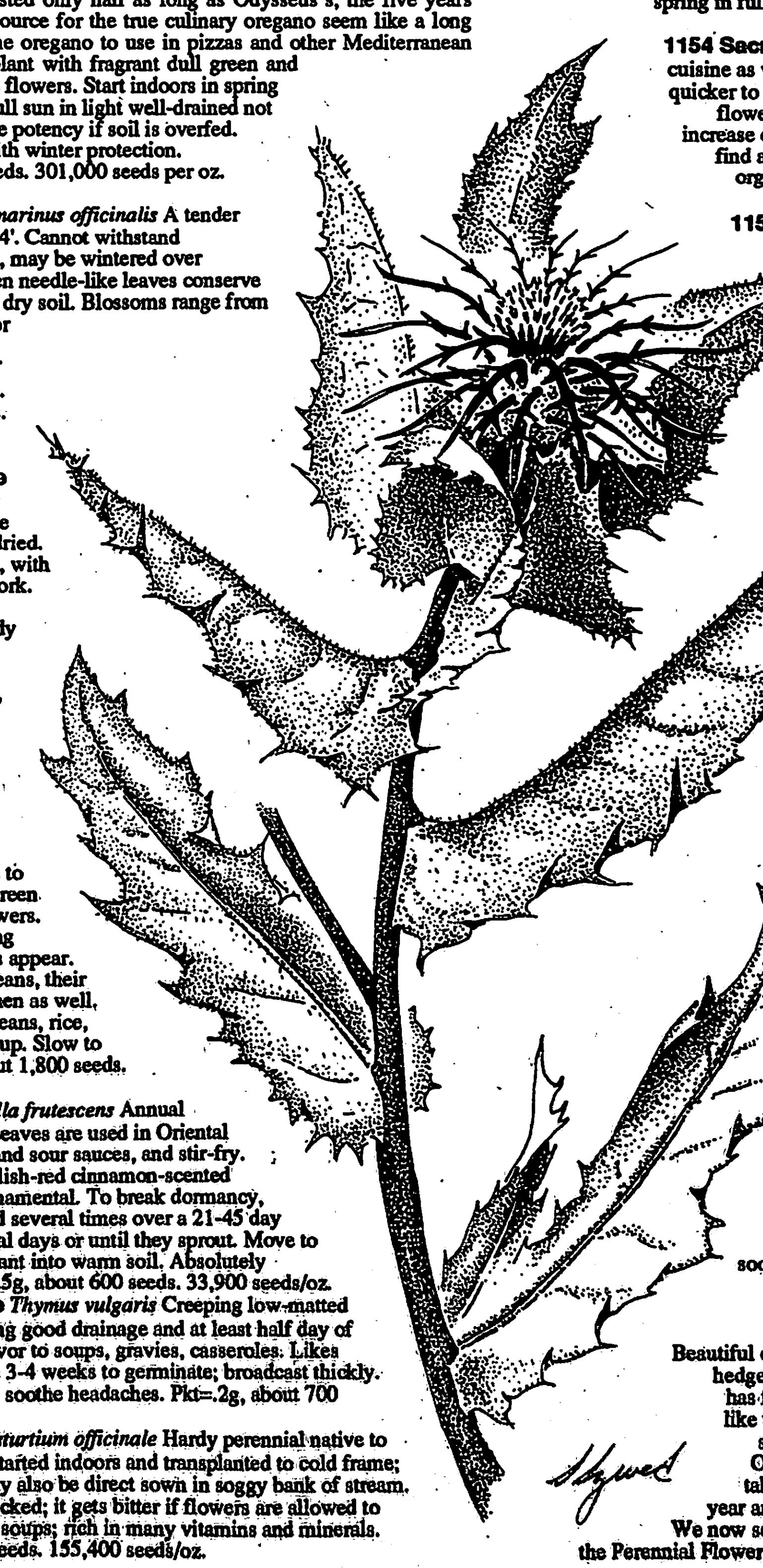
1141 Broadleaf Sage *Salvia officinalis* Hardy perennial to 3', with blue flowers. Used fresh or dried. Tasty in stuffing blends, with eggs, cheese, poultry, pork. Grey oblong leaves on stems which grow woody with age; plants should be replaced every 3 years. Likes sunny spot, well-drained soil. May be sown in early spring for a good fall crop. Pkt=1g, about 125 seeds. 3,450 seeds/oz.

1144 Summer Savory *Satureja hortensis* Annual grows to 1½' with narrow dark-green leaves and lavender flowers. Cut often during growing season, before blossoms appear. Sow in spring next to beans, their complement in the kitchen as well. Use with dry or green beans, rice, stuffings, or in onion soup. Slow to germinate. Pkt=1g, about 1,800 seeds. 51,500 seeds/oz.

1145 Red Shiso *Perilla frutescens* Annual also known as perilla. Leaves are used in Oriental cuisine in sushi, sweet and sour sauces, and stir-fry. Grows up to 4'. Its purplish-red cinnamon-scented leaves are extremely ornamental. To break dormancy, freeze and thaw the seed several times over a 21-45 day period. Soak seed several days or until they sprout. Move to indoor flats, and transplant into warm soil. Absolutely intolerant of frost. Pkt=.5g, about 600 seeds. 33,900 seeds/oz.

1147 German Thyme *Thymus vulgaris* Creeping low-matted perennial to 12" requiring good drainage and at least half day of sun. Brings depth of flavor to soups, gravies, casseroles. Likes alkaline soil. Seeds take 3-4 weeks to germinate; broadcast thickly. Said to calm the nerves, soothe headaches. Pkt=.2g, about 700 seeds. 98,200 seeds/oz.

1149 Watercress *Nasturtium officinale* Hardy perennial native to Europe. Seeds may be started indoors and transplanted to cold frame; keep watered. Seeds may also be direct sown in soggy bank of stream. Likes sunshine. Keep picked; it gets bitter if flowers are allowed to form. Use in salads and soups; rich in many vitamins and minerals. Pkt=.25g, about 1,375 seeds. 155,400 seeds/oz.



MEDICINAL HERBS

For 1996 we have divided our herbs into two sections: culinary and medicinal. These plants have found traditional uses in herbal home remedies. Consult Deb Soule's The Roots of Healing (#2374 in our book section), Penelope Ody's The Complete Medicinal Herbal (#2310), or other herbals for more detailed information. See also: 1106 Fennel, 1135 Mint, 1138 Rosemary, 1141 Sage; as well as 1246 Pacific Beauty Calendula. **A botanical index appears on p. 43.**
Available in three sizes except where noted.
1151-1192: A=70¢, B=$1.70, C=$5.00

1151 Anise Hyssop *Agastache fœniculum* Bushy perennial permeates the air with the smell of sweet licorice. Its long-blooming nectar-laden purple flowers attract bees and make excellent garnishes. Its anise-scented foliage and its flowers make a delightful tea or culinary seasoning. Sow in late spring in full sun or transplant 1' apart. Can grow 3' tall. Pkt=.2g, about 520 seeds. 74,000 seeds/oz.

1154 Sacred Basil *O. sanctum* Native to India and used in its cuisine as well as in Thai cooking. Spicier than other basils and quicker to go to seed, but still usable when covered with purple flowers. Said to be an immune system strengthener and to increase oxygen intake to the brain. We searched two years to find a reliable source for this aromatic herb before finding organic seed in Ohio. Pkt.=.1g, about 180 seeds. 50,000 seeds/oz.

1155 Blessed Thistle *Cnicus benedictus* Also known as St. Benedict Thistle, holy thistle and sacred thistle. A hairy annual featuring bristly red stems, long spiny leaves with sinuate margins, and yellow flowers, blooming from July through September, surrounded by spines. Its leaves, flowers and roots are edible, the latter boiled as a vegetable. More than one herbalist we know uses it as a liver tonic or digestive bitter. It is said to stimulate gastric and bile secretions, to improve mother's milk, and to be good for hormonal imbalances. Originally from the Mediterranean, it likes dry, sunny locales. *May be emetic in large doses*. Pkt=.1g. NEW!

1156 Borage *Borago officinalis* Bushy 2' plants produce many tiny blue, pink and purple flowers which make a colorful addition to salads and can be used in cough syrups. Blossoms frozen in ice cubes lend cucumber flavor to cold drinks. Can also use leaves in salad or for tea. Seeds a good source of GLAs. Annual likes sun, will self sow. Direct seed in spring. Pkt=1g, about 70 seeds. 2,000 seeds/oz.

1158 Catnip *Nepeta cataria* "If you set it, the cats will get it; if you sow it, they won't know it." Hardy perennial, will self sow after established. Likes sun or partial shade, rich or sandy soils. Direct seed early spring. Said to calm mild stomach disorders and produce restful sleep. Decorative when flowering. Pkt=1g, about 1,400 seeds. 41,000 seeds/oz.

1160 German Chamomile *Matricaria recutita* Annual easily raised from seed in moist well-drained soil. Sow seeds in spring; after established will self sow. If you want flowers, do not cut the foliage. More floriferous than perennial (Roman) chamomile. Flower heads ready to gather when petals fall back from center. Herbals claim a tea from these calms nerves and soothes the stomach. Needs light to germinate. Pkt=1g, about 9,500 seeds. 272,000 seeds/oz.

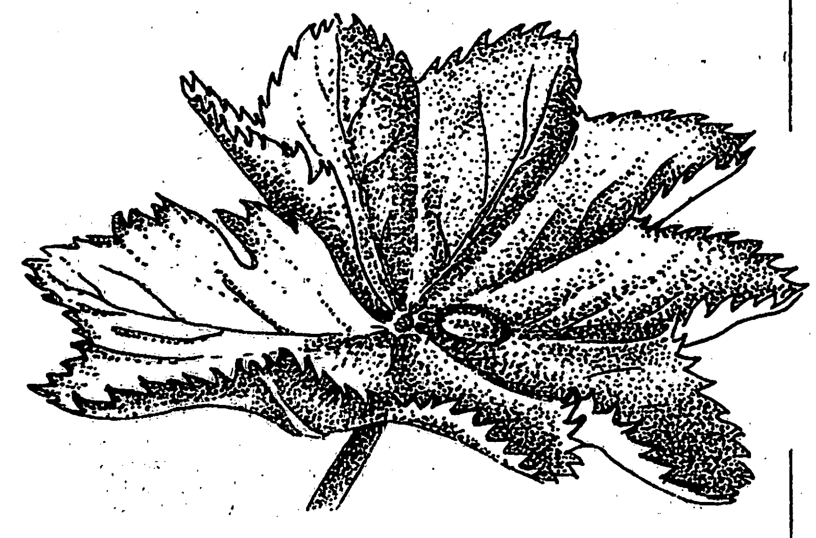
1161 Purple Coneflower *Echinacea purpurea* Long-lived perennial is a vigorous grower, to 3' tall. Beautiful daisy-like flowers in gradations of purple, with large hedgehog centers make good cutflowers. Lately, attention has focused on its immune-strengthening properties. We like to tincture flowers and leaves in August, and use the same alcohol to tincture seeds and third-year roots in October. Start indoors 8 weeks before setting out, can take 20 days to germinate. Growing in popularity each year and one of the hardest to keep in stock for late orders. We now sell 5# of seed in over 750 packets. Formerly listed in the Perennial Flowers section. Seed organically grown in Maine. Pkt=1g, about 260 seeds. 7,500 seeds/oz.

1163 Feverfew *Chrysanthemum parthenium* Perennial. Could also be listed with the flowers for its daisy-like white blooms good in bouquets. A tea from the leaves was traditionally used as a relaxant and chewing on the leaves is said to relieve migraine headaches. Light aids germination. Sow indoors, set out when seedlings have four true leaves. Pkt=.1g, about 800 seeds. 230,000 seeds per oz.

1166 Horehound *Marrubium vulgare* Perennial forms a 2' bushy stand of grey-green, makes a good border plant. Horehound candies were once the common remedy for coughs and the tea makes a strong beverage. One of the bitter herbs of Passover. Start indoors and transplant while seedlings are still small when soil temperature reaches 60° or direct seed. Pkt=.2g, about 190 seeds. 27,600 seeds/oz.

1167 Hyssop *Hyssopus officinalis* A beautiful aromatic perennial border plant which produces spikes of indigo flowers, traditionally used in cough syrups. Can be planted with rosemary and lavender for a colorful and fragrant effect. It was used as a strewing herb, thrown on floors to mask odors. Its slightly bitter leaves can be added to salads, soups and stews, or used as an expectorant tea. Transplant in sunny spot in light, sandy soil when danger of frost is past. Pkt=.5g, about 480 seeds. 27,600 seeds/oz.

1169 Lady's Mantle *Alchemilla mollis* I first saw this attractive plant with large sprays of greenish-yellow flowers in the lovely gardens at Avena Botanicals. Traditional tonic and remedy for women makes a good border and ground cover in shady locations. Likes moist location or mulch. Flowers provide unusual material for arrangers. Softly hairy wavy-edged leaves unfold like fans in early spring. Can be difficult to germinate. 12-18" hardy perennial. Pkt.=.05g, about 145 seeds. 82,360 seeds/oz.



1170 Lavender *Lavandula vera* Famous for centuries for its sweet soothing lasting scent. Flowers used as an everlasting in wreaths and arrangements, and as a tea for headache and nervous exhaustion. Hardy perennial reaching 3', woody shrublike plant with grey-green foliage and lavender flowers growing on long-stemmed spikes. Seeds are slow to germinate, like coolness. Freeze them before planting for best results. May be sown outdoors in fall or spring, or started indoors midwinter. Likes well-drained, alkaline soil. Pkt=.3g, about 315 seeds. 29,975 seeds/oz.

1172 Lemon Balm *Melissa officinalis* Melissa is the Greek word for bee; the plant in flower attracts them. A hardy perennial growing to 2', its lemony leaves, yellow-green, heart-shaped and shiny, should be gathered before flowering. Delicious as a tea, with fruit, or dried for sachets. Once thought to renew youth, and used as an anti-depressant. Likes well-drained soil, needs at least a half day of sun. Slow to germinate, may be started indoors or out in spring. Should be mulched over the winter in cold areas. Pkt=.3g, about 550 seeds. 53,250 seeds/oz.

1173 Lemon Mint *Monarda citriodora* A member of the bee balm family, not a mint. Related to Oswego Tea. The tiered pinkish-purple flower spikes of this showy 2-3' plant are long-lasting in fresh bouquets and can be dried for everlasting arrangements. Its lemon-scented leaves are delicious and commonly used in tea. Lemon mint will often reseed where it is planted. Annual. Pkt=1g, about 1850 seeds. 52,500 seeds/oz.

1175 Milk Thistle *Silybum marianum* Its name arises from the bold white splashes on its glossy leaves, said to be from Mary's milk. A fast-growing 3-5' annual with fiercely beautiful leaves, up to 8x24". Young leaves are edible—remove spines first! Flower stalk puts out large purple thistle flowers; said to be eaten like artichokes. Silymarin, a compound found in the flowers and seeds, has been used to strengthen and rebuild liver tissue. Will self-sow; keep a pair of gloves handy to pull unwanted volunteers before they get big and prickly. Likes dry, sunny spot. Pkt=1g, about 40 seeds. 1140 seeds/oz.

1177 Motherwort *Leonurus cardiaca* The genus Leonurus in Greek signifies lion's tail, to which the plant has a fanciful resemblance. Hardy perennial of the mint family grows 2-3' with dull green leaves having a pungent odor and rather bitter taste. Good bee plant. Pick when flowering for tea or herbal tincture. It was believed to strengthen the heart muscle, and was used as a women's tonic and as a relaxant. Readily self-sows; pull up first-year basal rosettes before they put out their spiky flower stalk the second year. Seed organically grown in Maine. Pkt=.2g, about 240 seeds. 34,000 seeds/oz.

1178 Mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris* Deeply cut dark green leaves are light silvery-green underneath. Aromatic 2-4' perennial used by women since ancient times is said useful for menstrual irregularities, and for stimulating liver and digestion. *Pregnant women avoid internal use.* Has been used for dream pillows, as a moth repellent, in beermaking, and for moxabustion. Start indoors, transplant out after last frost. Can be invasive, but easy to pull. Pkt=.2g, about 1300 seeds. 185,000 seeds/oz.

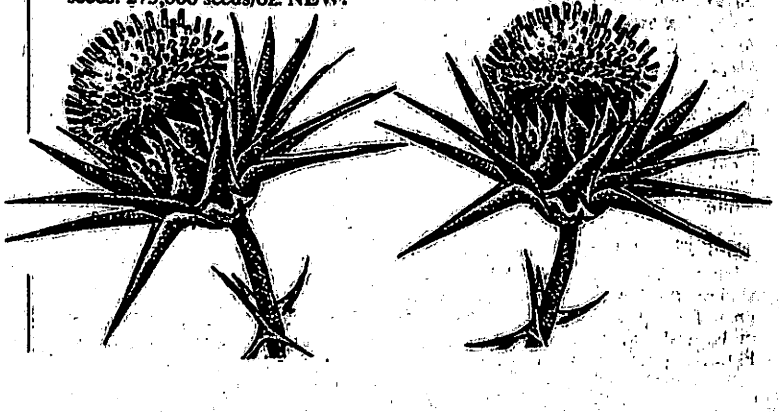
1182 Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica* Used by biodynamic gardeners to increase the potency of neighboring herbs, and to stimulate humus formation. The young shoots and leaves are delicious steamed as spring greens, very high in minerals. Also makes a great hair rinse or dry chicken feed. Barbara Sempf, who gardens in St Albans, VT, reports, "The stinging nettle makes a wonderfully stinky nettle tea. Great stuff and not at all appreciated by the ladies who judge at our local field days. Alas." Perennial may spread if not harvested. Choose your spot carefully; the roots as well as the leaves can sting. Cooking or drying removes the sting. Likes rich composted soil in moist areas. Seed collected from wild Maine compost piles. Pkt=.2g, about 1,240 seeds. 175,000 seeds/oz.

1184 Pennyroyal *Mentha pulegium* Hardy groundcover plant is notorious for its insect-repellent properties and can be used to ward off mosquitoes and to remove fleas from pets. Strongly aromatic member of the mint family makes a potent tea. *Caution: Should not be ingested by pregnant women.* Start indoors at cool temperatures and keep moist. Taking two weeks to germinate, the seedlings are small and grow slowly. Plant 6" apart to make a dense mat. The plants creep with only the lavender flower stalks rising above the ground. Perennial likes rich soil with good moisture; can tolerate shade. Over 500 customers welcomed its 1995 return to our selection after a 14-year hiatus. Pkt=.1 gram, about 1400 seeds. 400,000 seeds/oz.

1186 Rue *Ruta graveolens* Also known as Herb-of-Grace. Perennial said to be an insect and deer repellant was once used against fleas in courts of justice. Very attractive blue-green foliage with delicate yellow flowers. Its leaves are aromatic and bitter. European painters used to consume a great deal of it because they believed it was good for their vision! Use sparingly. *Rue should never be ingested by pregnant women.* Several herbalists warn that large doses can cause pain and vomiting; also contact dermatitis in sensitive individuals. Likes a sunny location with poor soil. Needs good drainage. 2'. Pkt=.5g, almost 300 seeds. 16,300 seeds per oz.

1189 Scullcap *Scuttelaria lateriflora* Native hardy spreading perennial needs moist rich soil. Herbalists claim it is an effective headache remedy and great for insomnia. Said to both calm and strengthen the nervous system, Scullcap finds its way into daily teas as well as formulas for chronic conditions. Enjoy it for its numerous small blue flowers from July through October or put it in a pillow to induce restful sleep. Pkt=.1g. AB only.

1192 Spilanthes *S. oleracea* Most visitors to Shooting Star Farm have never heard of this herb. I love to give them a couple of leaves to chew. Their reaction—either a blissed out smile of contentment or a horrified expression of concern—is generally not long in coming. Spilanthes' remarkable tingling and mouth-numbing properties manifest themselves rapidly and last a while. Its common names—Salad Cress and Toothache Plant—tell us to use its bronzy-purple leaves in salad, or to chew the leaves and flowers for temporary pain relief. But its surface-immune stimulating properties, similar to echinacea's, are beginning to give this little-known and seldom-listed herb a wider audience. We owe our awareness of it to Deb Soule. A native of Central America, Spilanthes is a highly frost-sensitive plant which must be started indoors in warmth and transplanted after all danger of frost. It adds unusual beauty with its low growth habit and comical rayless red flowers surrounded by yellow rings. It might look good next to a bed of white petunias, mixed verbenas and portulacas. A real conversation piece and a valuable herb. Seed organically grown at Shooting Star Farm. Limited supply, order early. A only. Pkt=.01 gram, about 100 seeds. 275,000 seeds/oz. NEW!



ANNUAL FLOWERS

Seeds per packet for flowers are approximate. They are intended as guides, not guarantees, because we pack by weight, not by count. **Packet weight is listed with each flower; for B and C weights, please consult grid order form.** Flowers are arranged here by common name. A chart of common uses of flowers is on page 37. An index of botanical names is on p. 43.

Available in three sizes except where noted.

A=60¢, B=$1.60, C=$4.20

ALYSSUM *Lobularia maritima*

Free-flowering ground cover, blossoming from late spring till fall. Start seed in cool place 2 mos. before setting out. Needs light to germinate. Cool growing temperatures preserve color intensity. Easy to grow, likes sun, can tolerate some shade. Pkt=.5g, about 1,600 seeds. 90,000 seeds/oz. all types.

1202 Carpet of Snow Great-smelling dwarf white. 4".

1205 Pastel Carpet Pleasing shades of violet, rose, pink and white. 2½".

1208 Elephant Head Amaranth *Amaranthus gangeticus* This heirloom is a dramatic plant in the garden. As one customer put it, "It is a vigorous grower, beautiful in the field and knocks 'em out at farmers markets!" The deep red, almost purple bloom develops a 6-12" "trunk" at its top during the month of August. The plant grows to a height of 3-4' and the bloom is about 12-18" at the base. Seed passed through immigrants from Germany, saved by three generations of gardeners in Idaho, now comes East. Seed organically grown in Maine. Pkt=.1g, about 150 seeds. 42,000 seeds/oz.

1212 Rosea Angel's Breath *Gyposophila elegans* Pretty shell-pink single flowers blossoming all summer long on wispy stalks. Start in cool place indoors 2 mos. before setting outdoors or direct sow. Likes full sun and well-drained soil. 30". Good for cutflowers. Pkt=.5g, about 1,050 seeds. 59,000 seeds/oz.

CHINA ASTER *Callistephus chinensis*

Callistephus is from the ancient Greek *kalli* meaning beautiful and *stephos* meaning crown. Good as bedding plants or cutflowers. Range of color includes blues, purples, pinks and white. Sow indoors in a warm spot in late winter, transplant after danger of frost. All types about 13,000 seeds/oz. See also 1510.

1216 Early Dawn By far our earliest aster, Early Dawn provides bright splashes of color beginning in July. Will continue prolific bloom production if kept deadheaded. Nothing enriches bouquets like the first asters. 12-18". Pkt=.5g, about 210 seeds.

1219 Crego Mix Although a week later than Early Dawn, the ostrich feather blooms are richer and seem to hold better in wet and/or cold conditions. 2' plants with 4" diameter flowers. Pkt=.5g, about 250 seeds.

1222 Princess Mix 2-3" flowers on 2½' wiry stems. The pompon blooms are richly colored with deeply crested centers. Elegant cutflowers. These tend to be late bloomers. Still underrated by Fedco customers; these stole the show in our extensive 1994 trial. No other variety can match them in September. Pkt=.25g, about 100 seeds.

1223 Salmon Compliment Among the fifteen asters in our 1995 trial, Salmon Compliment stood out. Its 4" flowers with short radiated petals had a clean elegance all the others lacked. 2½' upright plant has strong stems good for cutting. Pkt=.25 g, about 110 seeds. 12,750 seeds/oz. NEW!

1224 Sea Star Mix The most stunning aster Nikos has ever grown; she then spent years searching for the source of its seed, ending in Germany. 2' plant bears fancy "tiger paw" flowers 3½-4" across, with a curled whorl of needle-like petals in a choice mix of lavender, blue, pinks, violet and soft white. Very productive and uniform. Excellent in bouquets and striking in the garden. Pkt.=.2g, about 90 seeds. 13,000 seeds/oz.

1225 Thunderball Among our 30 trial asters in 1994, Fleuroselect medal winner Thunderball stood out far above the rest in midseason. Its bright red somewhat spiky 3" blooms served as a magnet into our flower beds and were great for cutting because of their long 2' stems. The blooms, starting in midseason, maintained peak quality for a long period, almost till frost. Pkt.=.25 gram, about 110 seeds.

BACHELOR'S BUTTON *Centaurea cyanus*

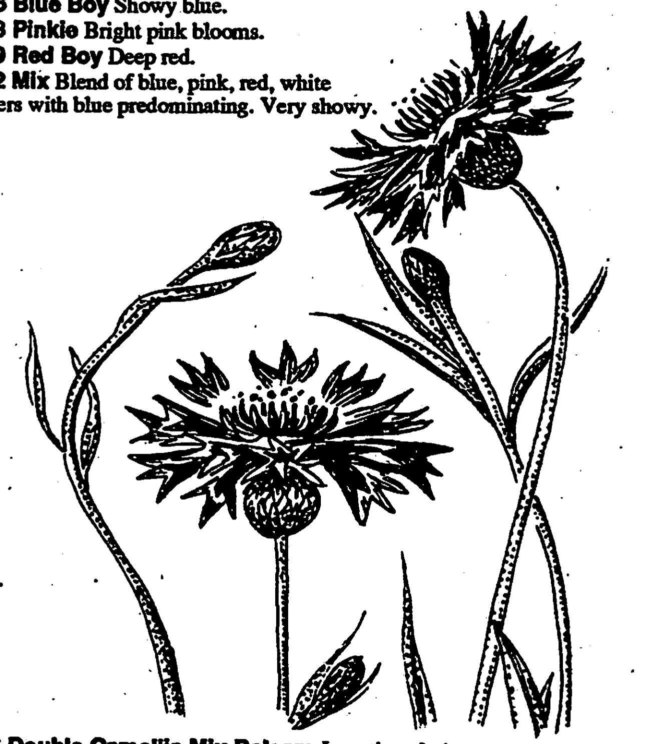
Cornflower is great for cutflowers and beds. Tight unopened buds were used as button substitute. Start in warm place 2 months before setting out or direct seed in May in a sunny location. Make a succession planting in mid-late June if you desire late summer blooms. 3'. All types pkt=1g, about 210 seeds. About 6,000 seeds/oz.

1226 Blue Boy Showy blue.

1228 Pinkie Bright pink blooms.

1229 Red Boy Deep red.

1232 Mix Blend of blue, pink, red, white flowers with blue predominating. Very showy.



1236 Double Camellia Mix Balsam *Impatiens balsamina* Old-fashioned flower makes a full show of abundant pink, rose & white rosettes along the axils up its stems. Thin for a more spectacular display. Direct seed after danger of frost. Don't cover the seed. 2'. Pkt=1g, about 120 seeds. 3,300 seeds/oz.

1238 Indian Summer Black-Eyed Susan *Rudbeckia hirta* With so many wild Black-Eyed Susans growing in our fields, who needs to buy seed for them? However, you won't find any wild ones that look like 1995 All-America winner Indian Summer, whose enormous five-petaled 6-9" golden yellow blooms are more reminiscent of sunflowers than Susies. Indian Summer grows up to 3' but branches so that staking is not necessary. Its long stems make for excellent cutflowers which have good staying power in the vase. Start indoors for early blooms. Will survive light fall frosts. Bred by Fleck of Germany. Pkt.=.1 gram, about 140 seeds. 41,000 seeds/oz.

CALENDULA *C. officinalis*

Old kitchen garden flower, 18-20" tall, also known as pot marigold. The beautiful orange and yellow double flowers, great for cutflower arrangements, are also edible. They thrive in cool weather, being one of the last flowers to succumb to fall frosts. Can be direct seeded in May or started indoors in cool place for early blooms. Deadhead to keep blooms coming. Don't like crowding, enjoy full sun.

1241 Kablouna Mix Distinct refined form with a neat crested center not showing the eye. Pkt=1g, about 140 seeds. 4,000 seeds/oz.

1246 Pacific Beauty Mix The classic and lovely yellow and orange mix. Highly regarded for its healing gifts by herbalists. The Roots of Healing, #2374, has details. Pkt=2g, about 300 seeds. 4,500 seeds/oz.

1249 Touch of Red Mix Deep mahogany red in centers, on petal backs creates pleasing contrast. Excellent for cutflowers. Tends to fade quickly after heavy rains, but was gorgeous during our dry October in 1994. Pkt=1g, about 200 seeds. 5,670 seeds/oz.

1253 Canary Creeper *Tropaeolum peregrinum* A climbing relative of the nasturtium. With a little coaxing, profuse vines can climb 8', providing golden-yellow flowers late in the season. Grows in shade but prefers full sun. Pkt=1g, about 15 seeds. 420 seeds/oz.

1257 White Pinnacle Candytuft *Iberis odorata* Makes a lovely border plant with its show of fragrant white blossoms with small green buttons in the center. Also excellent for cutflowers. *Candia*, an old name for Crete, and *Iberis* show its Mediterranean origins. Direct seed in late spring. 20". Pkt=.5g, about 190 seeds. 10,880 seeds/oz.

1261 Dwarf Fragrance Mix Carnation *Dianthus caryophyllus* Also known as Clove Pink. Notable for their outstanding fragrance, they come in a wide range of colors including crimson, rose, pink and white. Their stiff stems help make them a good cutflower. Remove lateral buds to produce larger flower on top. Start indoors 8 weeks before setting out after danger of frost is past. 12-14". Pkt=.3g, about 150 seeds. 14,500 seeds/oz.

1265 Double Mix China Pink *Dianthus chinensis* The name Dianthus comes from the Greek meaning "divine flowers." The name well fits the clustered, double dainty fringed blooms in white, salmon pink and crimson. They are commonly known as pinks, not for their color, but for their serrated petals which look like they've been pinked. Start indoors in cool place 6-8 weeks before setting out. Likes cool weather. Avoid heavy nitrogen fertilizers. Height 14-20". Pkt.=.5 gram, about 400 seeds. 23,100 seeds/oz.

1268 Merry Mix Chrysanthemum *C. carinatum* Also known as Love Daisy. Bright, cheery tricolor blooms of red, cream and yellow. Deeply cut fleshy foliage on 2' plant. Good in border or in pot, indoors or out. Start indoors 8-10 wks before setting out after danger of frost. Pkt=.5g, about 260 seeds. 15,000 seeds/oz.

1271 Clarkia Mix *C. unguiculata* Standout in our 1991 flower beds, was one of the first to bloom, and lasted a long time. Bears double flowers of pink, red and white along 2' erect stems. Closely related to Godetia, but much less likely to lodge, and blooms much longer. Can be direct seeded, but for earlier blooms start indoors and transplant after danger of frost is past. Pkt=1g, about 3,500 seeds. 98,000 seeds/oz.

1274 Rose Queen Cleome *C. hasslerana* The old-fashioned spider flower has made a comeback. Cleome sets large open flower clusters with very long stamens atop 4' stalks. For better germination prechill seeds in refrigerator. Do not cover seed. Likes the hot and dry conditions of midsummer and will bloom throughout the summer. Pkt= .5g, about 400 seeds. 22,500 seeds/oz.

COSMOS *spp.*

Sun-loving, free-flowering all summer, can serve as an accent, screen or cutflowers. For best results, thin its fast-growing large plants. Germinates in 1 week at 75°. 3,900 seeds/oz. See also 1520-22.

1278 Bright Lights Mix *C. sulphureus* A bright mixture of yellow and gold shades reaching 3'. Not frost hardy. Pkt= 1g, about 140 seeds.

1281 Sensation Mix *C. bipinnatus* Largest flowered cosmos variety needs little tending. One of last to give in to frost, will flower 10 weeks after direct seeding. A mixture of pinks, reds, purples and a few whites. 1936 AAS winner. 4-5'. Pkt=1.4g, about 195 seeds.

1285 Silver Dust Dusty Miller *Sinecio cineraria* Grown for its silvery white foliage and as a popular bedding plant for borders and accent. Large, lacinated leaves. Dwarf strain, 6-8". Start indoors in a warm spot 10-12 weeks before setting out, maintain dry conditions. Needs light to germinate, can take 3 weeks. Pkt=.2g, about 640 seeds. 90,000 seeds/oz.

1289 Scarlet Flax *Linum grandiflorum* 'Rubrum' Five-petalled blooms up to 1½" across on bushy 1' plants. Bright red flowers with a silky sheen. For best effect grow a generous mass of them. Direct seed as soon as ground can be worked. Do not transplant. Pkt=1g, about 300 seeds. 8,400 seeds/oz.

1292 Flowering Cabbage Mix *Brassica oleracea* Good ornamental for our climate because the colors deepen at the onset of cold weather. Start indoors 5-7 weeks before setting out in midsummer for fall maturity. While weather is still hot, sidedress with manure so that the plants will make rapid growth before nights begin cooling. As autumn approaches, withhold nitrogen to speed coloring. 10". Pkt=.25g, about 80 seeds. 9,000 seeds/oz.

1295 Osaka Mix Flowering Kale *B. o.* F-1 hybrid. A mix of red, pink and white compact heads with wavy-edged leaves, providing color contrasts for accent or pattern plantings. Used as edible garnish and in salads; also called salad savoy. Prefers cool weather. Culture same as for flowering cabbage. 8". Pkt=.5g, about 250 seeds. 14,500 seeds/oz. See also 1530-1531.

1298 Tall Mix Four O'Clock *Mirabilis jalapa* Also known as Marvel of Peru. The fragrant trumpet-shaped flowers open in late afternoon, being best appreciated at dusk when they appear to glow. The 2-3' plants make good background or annual hedge. Start indoors, transplant out when warm weather has settled in. Likes full sun. Pkt=3g, about 50 seeds. 520 seeds/oz.

1302 Dwarf Double Azalea Mix Godetia *Clarkia amoena* Also known as Farewell to Spring. So lovely, deserves to be better known. Its frilly delicate blooms in pastel shades stand out in bouquets. Double and semi-double blooms in pink, red, rose and lilac on 16" stems. Direct seed in early May. Wonderful in borders, benefits from taller flowers in the background to form contrast, give support. Pkt=.7g, about 2,200 seeds. 89,500 seeds/oz.

LARKSPUR *Consolida orientalis*

Giant Imperial, 3'. Long flower spikes are used as cutflowers or in dried arrangements. Delphinium-like flowers on upright long-stemmed plants. Very slow to give in to fall frosts. May be direct seeded in early spring or started indoors and set out in 8 weeks. Germinates in 21 days. Pkt=1g, about 330 seeds. All types about 9,400 seeds/oz.

1307 Blue Spire Dark-blue.

1310 Carmine

1313 Lilac

1316 Pink Perfection

1319 White King 1937 AAS winner.

1322 Mixed Densely covered with pink, purple, blue and white florets, make a beautiful background, good for cutting. Pkt=1g, about 280 seeds.

1325 Blue Cloud *C. regalis* Blue Cloud doesn't shoot up a single spike like most larkspurs. Instead it sends flocks of bushy 5-petaled rich blue ½" florets on wispy foliage which, en masse, give the effect of clouds. Its tiny seed pods are equally decorative. Pkt=.1g, about 80 seeds. 22,800 seeds/oz.

LAVATERA *L. trimestris*

People who are seeing my garden for the first time always ask for the identity of this flower so they can have it in their own plots the following year. Start indoors 8 wks before setting out, or direct seed in sunny spot. Will survive light fall frosts. Also known as Herb Treemallow; botanical name honors the 16th century Swiss naturalist brothers Lavater, and the three-month bloom time in warmer climes. 4,200 seeds/oz.

1326 Pink An explosion of exotic pink blooms on 2' tall bushy plants great for borders. Lasts in bouquets after most others have shrivelled. Pkt=1g, about 150 seeds.

1329 Mont Blanc Slightly dwarf (20") hybrid with white blossoms. Fleuroselect medal winner. Too short for commercial cutting, but nice in borders. Looks great planted alongside Pink Lavatera. Pkt=.5g, about 75 seeds.

1330 Tanagra Extra-large deep rose flowers with lighter veining borne on large strong 3' plants. For an eye-catching combination, plant Tanagra alongside our traditional Pink! Pkt=1g, about 150 seeds. NEW!

1332 Crystal Palace Blue Lobelia *L. erinus* With deep blue flowers on bronze-green foliage, this is the perfect window box plant. 4" tall, great for edgings, walks and borders. Sow indoors in a cool place before setting out, or in planters. Needs light to germinate. Tolerates some shade. Pkt=.2g, about 5,000 seeds. 750,000 seeds/oz.

1335 Loves-Lies-Bleeding *Amaranthus caudatus* Also known as Tassel Flower. This robust 2-4' branching annual sports long drooping red tassels which hold until frost. Makes a good border; stake and tie for neater appearance. Sow indoors 5-6 wks before last frost. Needs light to germinate. Pkt=1g, about 1,500 seeds. 43,000 seeds/oz.

1337 High Mallow *Malva sylvestris* var. *mauritania* First caught my eye as a volunteer in one of my compost piles, a refugee from a distant flower garden. Bears striking large single fuchsia saucer-shaped flowers with dark veins. An outstanding blue ribbon specimen at the 1994 Common Ground Fair captivated all who saw it. This is a large plant—about 3' across and 4' high—so give it plenty of room in a focal point in your garden. Biennial usually grown as an annual; will often flower the first year. Pkt.=.15 gram, about 15 seeds. 2,800 seeds/oz.

MARIGOLD *Tagetes* spp.

Good as beddings, in planters, or low borders. Grown in Brazil 400 years ago, said to have been sacred to the Aztecs. Sow after soil has warmed, or inside in a warm spot, 3 weeks before setting out. Likes full sun. About 9,000 seeds/oz. See also 1542-1551.

1339 Brocade Mix French Dwarf Double *T. patula* Abundant color on neat, compact 10" plants. Ruffled flowers in rust, yellow, orange, red & bicolors. Pkt=.5g, about 165 seeds.

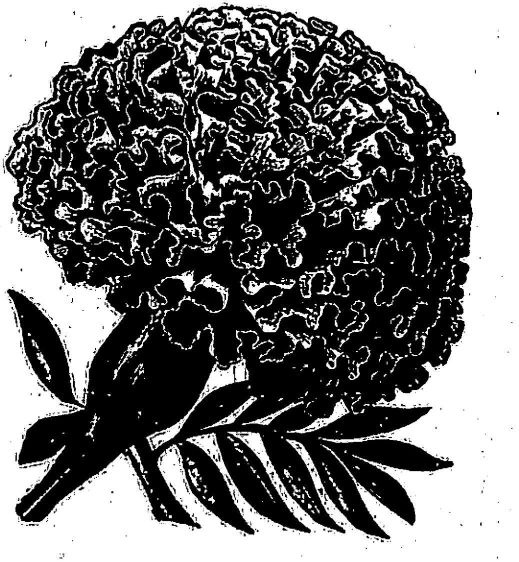
1342 Sparky Mix French Dwarf Double *T. p.* Combines yellow, gold, orange and red blooms on free flowering compact 10-12" plants. Flowers are 2-2½" wide. Pkt=1g, about 300 seeds.

1344 Lemondrop French Dwarf Double *T. p.* A beautiful true yellow extra dwarf crested variety. Blooms early, through summer into fall. Start 3 weeks before setting out, or direct sow. Pkt=1g, about 320 seeds.

1345 Lemon Gem *T. tenuifolia pumila* Compact 10-12" plant bears tiny bright lemon-yellow flowers early, through summer, into fall. Blooms are edible with lemony scent. Start 3 weeks before setting out, or direct sow. Pkt=.5g, about 600 seeds. 35,000 seeds/oz.

1348 Tangerine Gem *T. t. p.* As above, except the tiny fragrant flowers are deep orange. They make colorful tasty additions to salads. If you cut them, they'll keep coming. Pkt=.5g, about 600 seeds.

1352 Tall African Crackerjack Mix *T. erecta* A tall (30") carnation-flowered type. Early mix of orange, gold, yellow. Large, fully doubled flowers rarely need staking. Pkt=1g, about 320 seeds.



1353 Torch Mexican Sunflower *Tithonia rotundifolia* These 4' plants bear reddish-orange 4-5" blooms which hummingbirds find extremely attractive. My fondness for this showy flower is shared by our customers who celebrated its return to our list in 1994 by purchasing nearly 800 packets. 1951 AAS winner. Pkt=.2g, about 20 seeds. 2,800 seeds/oz.

1354 Mignonette *Reseda odorata* Imagine an afternoon garden party with the haunting scent of raspberries wafting through the air. Guests will look for some showy bloom and little suspect the insignificant yellow-green blossoms. Less than a foot high, it can be grown in pots and moved for best effect; however its scent will fade if it is removed from full-day sun. Prefers fertile, well-drained soil and cool weather. Once considered fashionable on the balconies of Paris, Mignonette is still grown in Holland for European cutflower markets. Pkt=1 gram, about 900 seeds. 25,500 seeds/oz. NEW!

1355 Spotted Monkey Flower *Mimulus* x *hybridus* 'Grandiflorus', You folks must have thought we were monkeying around, so few of you tried this enchanting little bedding plant. Mimulus looks good alongside petunias or verbenas and is also suitable for hanging baskets. Like pansies, the yellow and orange blooms are freckled with browns, giving them an irreverant monkey-face effect. Start indoors in April (do not cover the seed) and transplant in 4 weeks. Easy to grow in our climate because it likes cool weather, but doesn't tolerate frost. Likes partial shade and moist locations, doesn't do well in drought. Pkt.=.1 gram, about 2,500 seeds. 700,000 seeds/oz.

MORNING GLORY *Ipomoea* spp.

Easily grown climber with trumpet-shaped flowers provides color & shade. Decorate fence or post. Soak seeds overnight before sowing. Plant with NE to SE exposure for best results. Sow outdoors after danger of frost or indoors in jiffy pots as they resent transplanting. Pkt=3.5g, about 80 seeds. 675 seeds/oz.

1356 Clarke's Heavenly Blue *I. tricolor* Old favorite. Intense blue lightens toward center; a sun-loving vine. 12'.

1359 Scarlett O'Hara *I. nil* Very large wine-red flowers on 10' vines. 1939 AAS winner.

NASTURTIUM *Tropaeolum majus*

Edible flowers lend a peppery taste to salads, with each color adding contrast and subtle variations in flavor. Blooms keep coming if cut. Round leaves also edible. Avoid excess nitrogen, but don't believe the myth that nasties thrive best in poor soil. Like full sun. About 200 seeds/oz. all types.

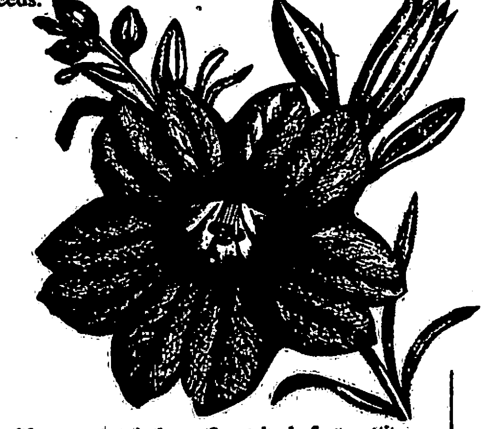
1364 Alaska Mix This eye-catcher has variegated green and white foliage. If you feed it heavily it will make a formidable bush, but if you want to eat its tangy yellow and orange blossoms you will have to go easy on the nitrogen. A great plant for hanging baskets. 16". Pkt=2g, about 16 seeds.

1367 Empress of India Its stems and leaves have a red toning that gives the plant a lovely olive color. Its attractive scarlet flowers are spicy hot. Darker coloring makes a delightful contrast in your nasturtium patch. Do not feed heavily. 16" plants. Pkt=3g, about 22 seeds.

1370 Jewel Mix Bushy variety holds bloom above foliage. Early free-flowering blend of colors. Blooms 6 weeks after sowing & continues until frost. 16". Pkt=4g, about 24 seeds.

1373 Whirlybird 7-Color Blend Has large spurless upward-facing flowers borne above the foliage. Compact non-trailing plant habit. Recommended for commercial growers. 12" plants. Pkt=2g, about 15 seeds.

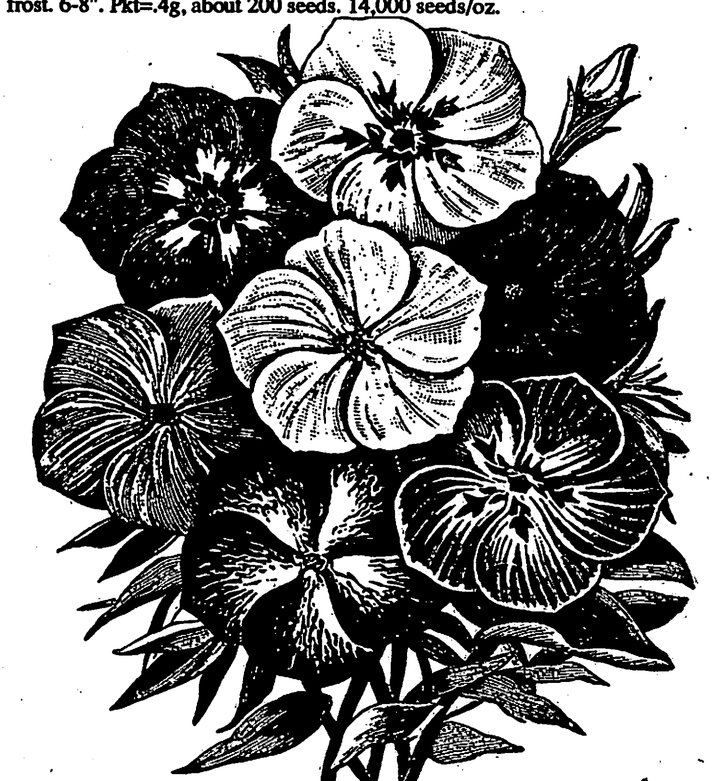
1376 Tall Climbing Mix Tall trailing mix to 2' in red, orange, gold and exquisite bicolor shades. Each different colored blossom has its own distinctive taste. Plants will spread but having no tendrils cannot, strictly speaking, climb. *The most prolific blossom set of any of the nasturtiums we have tried*. Pkt=4g, about 20 seeds.



1380 Super Friendship Mix Painted Tongue *Salpiglossis sinuata* A refined version of this old-fashioned 15" cutflower with a wider range of colors and longer-lasting blooms than the Dwarf Friendship Mix. Painted Tongue has delicate trumpet-shaped blooms with exquisite veins and markings, in dark blue, purple, deep red, strawberry, light and deep pinks, yellow, sky blue and cream, with gold and white veining. Not much foliage, so flowers really stand out. Deadhead to keep production up. For earlier blooms start indoors 8 weeks before setting out after danger of frost. Thrives in cool summers with full sun. Pkt=.2g, about 860 seeds. 125,000 seeds per oz. NEW!

1384 Swiss Giant Regular Mix Pansy *Viola x wittrockiana* Blotched flowers in a wide range of colors, with best color in cool of spring, 6" plants good for bedding or borders. Not recommended for commercial growers. Start 2 months prior to planting in a cool place. Likes partial sun. Pkt=.1g, about 70 seeds. 20,000 seeds/oz.

1388 Drummondii Mix Phlox *P. drummondii* Among the most colorful annuals for summer and fall beds, borders or window boxes. A large flowered mix of crimson, scarlet, pink, white and salmon with white eyes. Start early indoors or direct sow in spring. Likes moist, well-drained soil in full sun. One of the longest lasting in the vase. About the last to succumb to frost. 6-8". Pkt=.4g, about 200 seeds. 14,000 seeds/oz.



1392 Imperial Mix Pincushion Flower *Scabiosa atropurpurea* Excellent old-fashioned cutflower that deserves to experience a revival. Flowers are perfect 1" mounds of tiny blossoms with a sweet smell. Blend of crimson, rose, lavender and white, on long stems. Among my favorites. Grows to 3', or pinch to induce bushiness. Start indoors 4 to 5 weeks before last frost. Pkt=.5g, about 40 seeds. 2,400 seeds/oz.

POPPY *Papaver* spp.

Sensuous luxurious flowers, about 2½-3' tall. Start indoors in cool place 2 mos. prior to setting out, or sow outside after frost. Likes full sun. Will self sow. Somniferum seeds also useful in the kitchen. All types 200,000 seeds/oz.

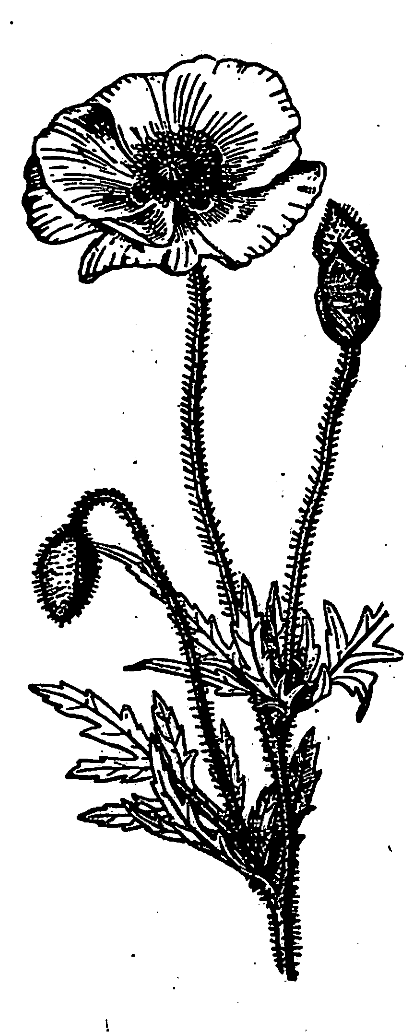
1396 Carnation *P. somniferum* Ruffled, heavily doubled deep pink blossoms make this one a real show-stopper. 4-5" flowers create splashes of color that can be seen from a distance. With each plant putting out a succession of blossoms, its breathtaking beauty extends over a long season. Broadcast seed in spring. Thin for robust plants. Seed organically grown in Maine. 12% off-types. Pkt=.2g, about 1,400 seeds.

1397 Elka *P. s.* An unusual double-purpose poppy sporting enormous seed heads up to 1½" wide and 2" high in good years, somewhat smaller in drought. About 75% of the seed heads are unvented so that the seed is not broadcast. From Chrenovec in central Slovakia, once used as a walnut substitute in their cuisine. Fifty or more years ago, families grew both the black Breadseed poppy and white-seeded Elka, and collected 50 kilograms of each for a year's cooking. When walnuts became widely available in stores, Elka almost completely disappeared. Named in honor of the old woman on a mountainside in Slovakia who is the last one left who continues to grow the variety in her area. Lacks the distinctive flavor of the Breadseed variety but is sweeter, with a more nutlike taste and none of the bitterness, and over 50% more oil content, making perhaps the best quality edible oil in central Europe. Plants grow 4' with white-lavender blossoms, like calcium-rich soil, don't transplant well. For best results thin to 5-6" apart. Some folks tie a group of plants together for support against wind breakage. Isolate from other poppies by at least 250' if you wish to save seed from your plants. Seed organically grown in Maine. Pkt=.1 gram, about 700 seeds.

1398 Ziar Breadseed *P. s.* The twin to Elka, most unusual in that it has been bred to eliminate the vents in its large seed head, enabling the black seeds to stay in the heads to be collected. Ornamental single lavender petals with centers ranging from pale red through dark colors. Although the first batch of seeds had some difficulty adapting to the cold climates of Canada and Maine, Ziar has been selected over the past 16 years for better cold survival. Slovakian variety once a mainstay in their cuisine. Seed organically grown in Maine. Pkt=.1 gram, about 700 seeds. NEW!

1399 Large Lavender Sorry, crop failure. *Not available in 1996.*

1402 Splendid Pastel Mix Sorry, crop failure. *Not available in 1996.*



1405 Shirley Double Choice Mix *P. rhoeas* Also known as Corn Poppy. Elegant blooms all summer in shades of pink, rose, salmon, scarlet and white. The name Shirley refers to the town in Surry, England, where the Rev. H. Wilks originally raised the variety. Pkt=.7g, about 4,900 seeds.

1408 Mission Bells California Poppy *Eschscholzia californica* Colorful, semi-double 2-3" orange flowers, occasionally yellow or pink. Excellent for borders, rock gardens, bedding. Likes full sun. Do not transplant. Direct seed in May after soil has begun warming. Make succession plantings for blooms all summer. 2'. Pkt=.5g, about 325 seeds. 18,300 seeds/oz.

1416 Blue Bedder Salvia *S. farinacea* True blue flower spikes are abundant for weeks on bushy 3' plants. Grey-green foliage. Light aids germination. Start indoors in warm location (do not cover seed) 4-6 weeks before last frost, keep fairly dry for best foliage color, and transplant outdoors after danger of frost is over. Pkt=.2g, about 200 seeds. 28,800 seeds/oz. Red Salvia is #1580.

1420 Panorama F2 Snapdragon *Antirrhinum majus* Non-hybrid produced from hybrid parents. High-quality blended mix shows golden yellow, rose, orchid, bronze, red and white flowers with soft fragrance. 20" plants blooms a long time. Refrigerate seeds, then expose to light to germinate. Sow indoors in cool place 8-10 weeks before setting out. Pkt=.2g, about 1,460 seeds. 211,700 seeds/oz. See also #1584.

1427 Dwarf Ten Weeks Mix Stock *Matthiola incana* Formula blended. Dwarf plant reaches 12-14". Each plant produces abundant flowers which really come into their own in the cool of September. Predominantly light and dark blue, white, pink and red blossoms for bedding and cutflowers. For earlier blooms sow indoors 6 to 8 weeks before setting out after danger of frost. Don't cover the seed. Pkt=.4g, about 250 seeds. 18,000 seeds/oz.

SUNFLOWER *Helianthus annuus*

Native to the Americas and revered by Peruvian Incas in their religious rituals, sunflowers are enjoying a tremendous revival of popularity. Thanks to the folks at Loon Song Farm, who've trialed 40 different varieties for us the past two summers, we've diversified our selection so that you can enjoy a full range of colors, shapes, heights and bloom times. Prized for their seeds by humans and birds, sunflowers also add a lighthearted touch to gardens. Direct sow after last frost, 3 to a pocket. Thin to best plant, 1' or more apart. Rich friable soil yields tallest plants, drought stunts growth. For our sunflower t-shirt, see #1995-6.

1428 Autumn Beauty Mix Tall 6-8' multibranching sunflower produces a lovely mixture of earthen shades. Petal colors range from bright yellow to bronze and purples; most have a characteristic red ring enclosing a black center. Blossoms 4-6" across are perfect as the center of giant flower arrangements. Has pollen. Pkt.=1 gram, about 45 seeds. 1300 seeds/oz.

1429 Floristan A spectacular Fleuroselect winner which produces distinctive blooms with deep-hued eyecatching petals growing off 18" branches from a 3' central stalk. Brownish-black centers with a ring of yellow provide contrast for the mahogany bleaching on the petals, which darken toward the center. Has pollen. Seed for this unique sunflower is very expensive. Pkt.=.25 gram, about 10 seeds. 1125 seeds/oz.

1430 Mammoth Grey Stripe A traditional variety of giant (6-12') single-stem sunflower with large seed heads. Beloved by birds and kids. Pkt=28g, about 180 seeds.

1431 Primrose This polyheaded wind-resistant sunflower is perfect for cutflowers. It bears 4-5" lemon-yellow petals with attractive brown centers which hold their blooms for a long time. About 5-7'. Pkt=1g, about 20 seeds. 560 seeds/oz.

1432 Schnittgold Contrast is the watchword for this handsome single-headed 5' sunflower. Its double ring surrounded by deep yellow petals makes a striking display. The center pollen ring is black and flat, surrounded by an auxiliary ring of brown. "Schnitt" means "cutting" in German; the variety makes a superb cutflower. 8-10" blooms. Pkt=1g, about 25 seeds. 700 seeds/oz.

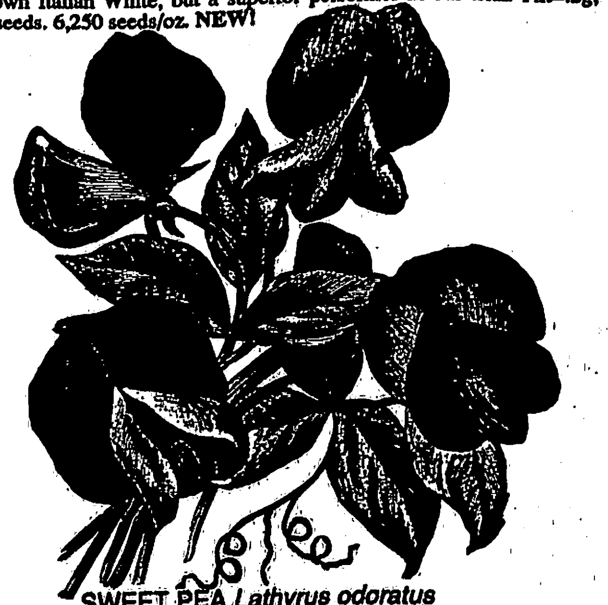
1433 Selma Suns Mix Trialer Donna Dyrek rates these her favorite sunflowers for their fragrance, beautiful diversity, and plethora of polyheading 6" blooms. Selma's heads have small dark centers, pointed petals, and display various hues and shades including yellows, golds, maroons and reds. Dyrek reports that Selma "flowers forever if the squirrels don't rip off the heads." Stalks grow 6-7'. Replaces Gloriosa which has a similar color range, but is unavailable this year. Pkt=1g, about 30 seeds. About 850 seeds/oz. NEW!

1434 Sunbeam F-1 hybrid. Van Gogh might have been imagining a variety like this one when he produced his magnificent work. Sunbeam's spectacular 4" green center is truly spellbinding, especially alongside its thin second ring of burgundy framed by its big rich golden-yellow petals which merge to yellow-green disks that slowly change color to yellow then brown as the plants mature. No other sunflower in our trials had a comparable pollen-free green center. Single headed on 5-5½' stalks. From Sakata in Japan. Pkt.=.5 gram, about 12 seeds. 700 seeds/oz.

1435 Sungold Dwarf A Danish variety which was the best of the Teddy Bear-types in our trial and much nicer than the original Teddy Bear. Polyheaded blooms growing on very short stems (the main stalk is only 2') are fully double giving the fuzzy effect admired by many. Drew much attention and many comments at our sunflower display at Common Ground Fair in 1994. Blooms hold well compared to other dwarf types. Has pollen. Pkt.=1 gram, about 50 seeds. 1400 seeds/oz.

1436 Sunspot With Sunspot you can bring the cheer of sunflowers indoors during those long cold winter months. This dwarf 2½' plant can be grown in a container in your house! Although its stem is relatively diminutive, there is nothing puny about its 8" flowers which look like traditional sunnies—yellow with a dark center. For good growth choose a warm sunny location, indoors or out. You may need to provide some support as Sunspot approaches maturity. Sunspot can give you a bit more o' the green than St. Patrick provides. Pkt=.25 gram, about 5 seeds. 1 oz=about 560 seeds. NEW!

1437 Vanilla Ice *H. debilis* Imagine a screening hedge of white sunflowers! These 5' stalks set blossoms with creamy white petals surrounding a rich dark brown disk. Polyheaded and similar to the better-known Italian White, but a superior performer in our trial. Pkt=.2g, about 45 seeds. 6,250 seeds/oz. NEW!



SWEET PEA *Lathyrus odoratus*

Soak seeds for 12-24 hours prior to sowing. For earliest blooms, sow indoors 2 mos. before setting out, or sow direct in spring. Likes full sun. In our current trials work, we are looking for more fragrance and we welcome your suggestions. About 350 seeds/oz. Perennial sweet pea is #1885.

1438 Little Sweetheart Mix Sweetheart is the most dwarf of all sweet peas, with bushes growing only 8-12". Produces its best blooms in cool fall weather. Bright color range of red, pink, white, rose, lilac and blue. Pkt.=4 grams, about 48 seeds. 340 seeds/oz.

1439 Knee High Mix Semi-dwarf 20" bush-type plants need no support, produce full-length stems. Pkt= 7g, about 85 seeds.

1443 Mammoth Mix 4-6' staking variety. The best tall sweet pea in our many gorgeous trials. Never stops blooming from July to September, even though temporarily slowed by heat waves, will revive over and over again to full glory. Long stems make for ideal cutflowers. Mixture of crimson, scarlet, white, lavender, deep rose, medium blue and pink. Pkt=7g, about 85 seeds.

1448 Tall Purple Verbena *V. bonariensis* One look was all I needed to fall in love with this free-flowering verbena. Don't confuse it with the hybrid dwarf bedding plant. Proud strong 3-4' stems covered with vibrant purple flowers which thrive in heat and will bloom from July to September. Makes an ideal novelty cutflower. Pkt.=.1 gram, about 400 seeds, 113,000 seeds/oz.

ZINNIA *Z. elegans*

One of the easiest annuals to grow from seed, and a favorite for bright color in Maine summers. Zinnia flower essence is used to bring out playfulness and lightheartedness. Deadhead to continue production. Sow in a sunny spot after last frost, or start indoors for earlier blooms. See also #1597.

1456 Cactus Mix Large ruffled blossoms resemble chrysanthemums. Profuse immense blooms in scarlet, orange, pink, yellow. Full sun. 3'. Pkt=1g, about 105 seeds. 3,000 seeds/oz.

1459 Gold Medal Mix A formula blend of cherry, orange, pink, purple, scarlet, white and yellow dahlia-flowered blossoms 4-5" in diameter excellent for cutting. Flowers are flat-petaled, semi-double on 3½' stems. Bred by Bodger. Pkt=1g, about 105 seeds. 3,000 seeds/oz.

1462 Persian Carpet *Z. haageana* These eye-catching variegated fully double and semi-double 2" flowers borne on 1' stalks held a long time. They have maroon centers, with white, yellow or gold on the outside. The Mexican Zinnia is smaller and less gaudy than our other zinnias and very pleasing in bouquets. 1952 AAS winner. Pkt=.5g, about 400 seeds. 22,000 seeds/oz.

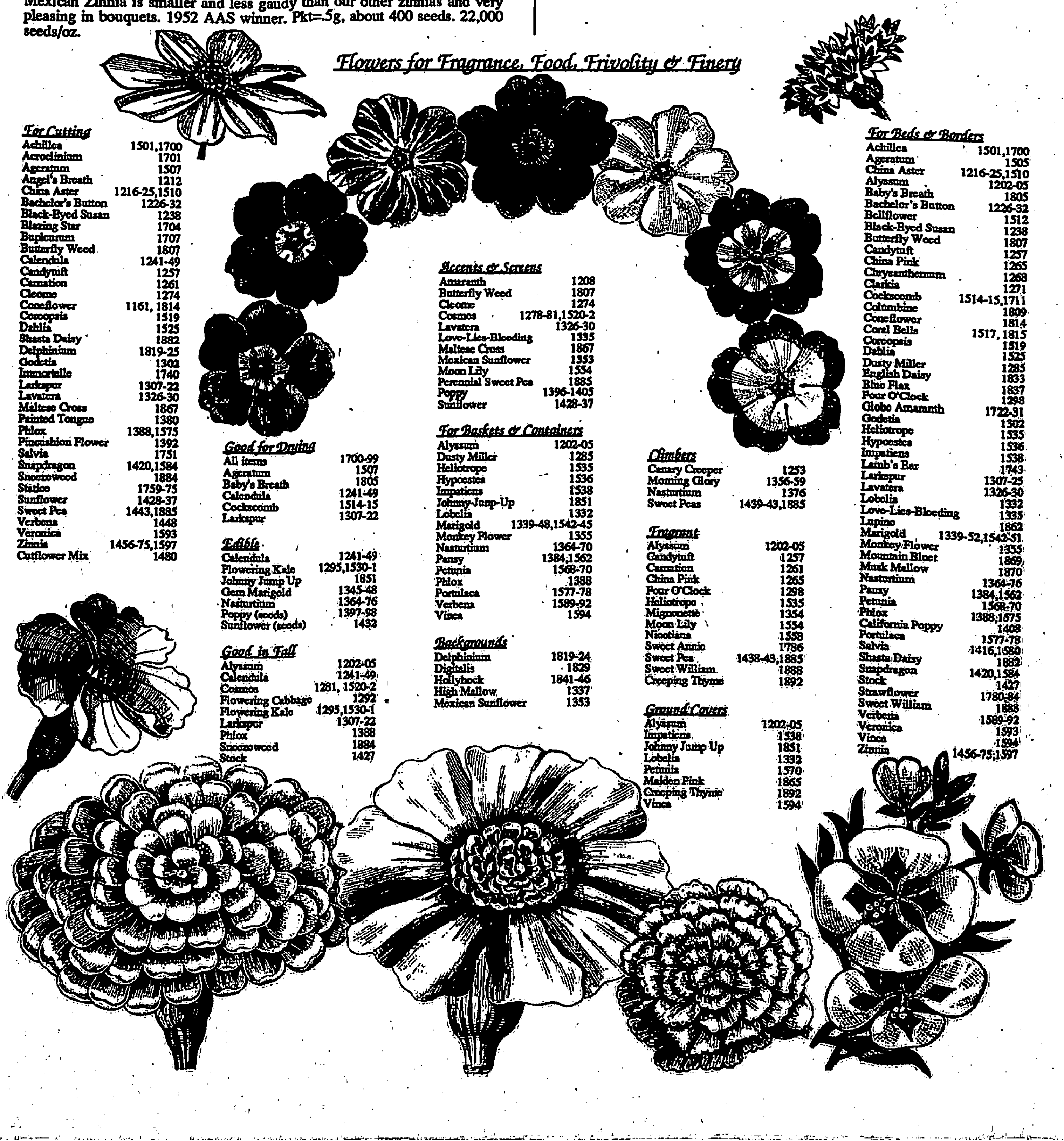
1465 Pumila Mix (Cut & Come Again) Small plants (2') with flowers 2½-3" across. Wide range of colors includes orange, yellow, white, pink, lavender and scarlet. Pkt=1g, about 140 seeds. 4,000 seeds/oz.

1469 Scarlet Flame Gene, who doesn't like gaudy zinnias, was attracted to Scarlet Flame's elegant bright scarlet blooms. 3' stems. Pkt=1g, about 110 seeds. 3,100 seeds/oz.

1472 State Fair Mix We've developed a liking for this old-fashioned variety with its rich array of huge single and double blooms borne on 30" plants. The blooms are much showier than those in the Gold Medal Mix. Staffer Susan Shipman's favorite flower variety "for the intensity of its fully saturated reds and magentas." Pkt=.5g, about 50 seeds. 3,000 seeds/oz.

1480 Cutflower Mix A mixture of annual flowers which can be used for cutting. Includes popular types such as aster, bachelor's button, calendula; also some lesser-known kinds. Pkt=1g.

Flowers for Fragrance, Food, Frivolity & Finery



For Cutting	
Achillea	1501,1700
Acroclinium	1701
Ageratum	1507
Angel's Breath	1212
China Aster	1216-25,1510
Bachelor's Button	1226-32
Black-Eyed Susan	1238
Blazing Star	1704
Bupleurum	1707
Butterfly Weed	1807
Calendula	1241-49
Candytuft	1257
Carnation	1261
Cleome	1274
Coneflower	1161, 1814
Coreopsis	1519
Dahlia	1525
Shasta Daisy	1882
Delphinium	1819-25
Godetia	1302
Immortelle	1740
Larkspur	1307-22
Lavatera	1326-30
Maltese Cross	1867
Painted Tongue	1380
Phlox	1388,1575
Pincushion Flower	1392
Salvia	1751
Snapdragon	1420,1584
Sneezeweed	1884
Statice	1759-75
Sunflower	1428-37
Sweet Pea	1443,1885
Verbena	1448
Veronica	1593
Zinnia	1456-75,1597
Cutflower Mix	1480

Good for Drying	
All items	1700-99
Ageratum	1507
Baby's Breath	1805
Calendula	1241-49
Cockscomb	1514-15
Larkspur	1307-22

Edible	
Calendula	1241-49
Flowering Kale	1295,1530-1
Johnny Jump Up	1851
Gem Marigold	1345-48
Nasturtium	1364-76
Poppy (seeds)	1397-98
Sunflower (seeds)	1432

Good in Fall	
Alyssum	1202-05
Calendula	1241-49
Cosmos	1281, 1520-2
Flowering Cabbage	1292
Flowering Kale	1295,1530-1
Larkspur	1307-22
Phlox	1388
Sneezeweed	1884
Stock	1427

Accents & Screens	
Amaranth	1208
Butterfly Weed	1807
Cleome	1274
Cosmos	1278-81,1520-2
Lavatera	1326-30
Love-Lies-Bleeding	1335
Maltese Cross	1867
Mexican Sunflower	1353
Moon Lily	1554
Perennial Sweet Pea	1885
Poppy	1396-1405
Sunflower	1428-37

For Baskets & Containers	
Alyssum	1202-05
Dusty Miller	1285
Heliotrope	1535
Hypoestes	1536
Impatiens	1538
Johnny-Jump-Up	1851
Lobelia	1332
Marigold	1339-48,1542-45
Monkey Flower	1355
Nasturtium	1364-70
Pansy	1384,1562
Petunia	1568-70
Phlox	1388
Portulaca	1577-78
Verbena	1589-92
Vinca	1594

Backgrounds	
Delphinium	1819-24
Digitalis	1829
Hollyhock	1841-46
High Mallow	1337
Mexican Sunflower	1353

Climbers	
Canary Creeper	1253
Morning Glory	1356-59
Nasturtium	1376
Sweet Peas	1439-43,1885

Fragrant	
Alyssum	1202-05
Candytuft	1257
Carnation	1261
China Pink	1265
Four O'Clock	1298
Heliotrope	1535
Mignonette	1354
Moon Lily	1554
Nicotiana	1558
Sweet Annie	1786
Sweet Pea	1438-43,1885
Sweet William	1888
Creeping Thyme	1892

Ground Covers	
Alyssum	1202-05
Impatiens	1538
Johnny Jump Up	1851
Lobelia	1332
Petunia	1570
Maiden Pink	1865
Creeping Thyme	1892
Vinca	1594

For Beds & Borders	
Achillea	1501,1700
Ageratum	1505
China Aster	1216-25,1510
Alyssum	1202-05
Baby's Breath	1805
Bachelor's Button	1226-32
Bellflower	1512
Black-Eyed Susan	1238
Butterfly Weed	1807
Candytuft	1257
China Pink	1265
Chrysanthemum	1268
Clarkia	1271
Cockscomb	1514-15,1711
Columbine	1809
Coneflower	1814
Coral Bells	1517, 1815
Coreopsis	1519
Dahlia	1525
Dusty Miller	1285
English Daisy	1833
Blue Flax	1837
Four O'Clock	1298
Globe Amaranth	1722-31
Godetia	1302
Heliotrope	1535
Hypoestes	1536
Impatiens	1538
Lamb's Ear	1743
Larkspur	1307-25
Lavatera	1326-30
Lobelia	1332
Love-Lies-Bleeding	1335
Lupine	1862
Marigold	1339-52,1542-51
Monkey Flower	1355
Mountain Bluet	1869
Musk Mallow	1870
Nasturtium	1364-76
Pansy	1384,1562
Petunia	1568-70
Phlox	1388,1575
California Poppy	1408
Portulaca	1577-78
Salvia	1416,1580
Shasta Daisy	1882
Snapdragon	1420,1584
Stock	1427
Strawflower	1780-84
Sweet William	1888
Verbena	1589-92
Veronica	1593
Vinca	1594
Zinnia	1456-75,1597

FANCY FLOWERS

Seeds per packet for flowers are approximate. They are intended as guides, not guarantees, because we pack by weight, not by count. **Packet weight is listed with each flower; for B and C weights, please consult grid order form.**

Flowers are arranged here by common name. A chart of common uses is on page 37. An index of botanical names is on p. 43.

A selection of higher-priced varieties, many of which are especially recommended for commercial growers. Annuals except where noted.

Available in two sizes except where noted.

A=$1.80, B=$6.00

1501 Cerise Queen Achillea *A. millefolium* Perennial also known as Yarrow. Easy to grow and tolerant of drought, heat and poor soil. Beautiful cherry-red flower heads 2-4" across on 18" stems with lacy foliage. A good border plant. Pkt=.2g, about 1,400 seeds. 200,000 seeds/oz.

AGERATUM *A. houstonianum*

Showy annual also known as Flossflower. Great for summer borders. Water in hot weather. Will not tolerate frost. Start indoors 6-8 weeks before last frost.

1505 Blue Blazer F-1 hybrid. Puffy deep blue flowers on 8" plant. Very popular for borders and bedding. Starts blooming early, can withstand heat and continue into fall. Pkt=.05g, about 350 seeds. 200,000 seeds/oz.

1507 Blue Horizon F-1 hybrid. For everyone who loves ageratum and wants to bring them inside, this is a long-stemmed cutting variety. Growing 30" with blue flowers, this variety works well as an everlasting when dried. Pkt=.04g, about 150 seeds. 170,000 seeds/oz.

1510 Matsumoto Aster *C. chinensis* A very classy cutflower which may be harvested by the individual stem or in its entirety. Flowers sport distinct yellow centers amidst a variety of shades (apricot, blue, pink, red, rose, salmon and white) about 100 days after sowing. 2" semi-double blooms are concentrated at the top of strong 2½' stems. Pkt=.2g, about 90 seeds. 13,000 seeds/oz.

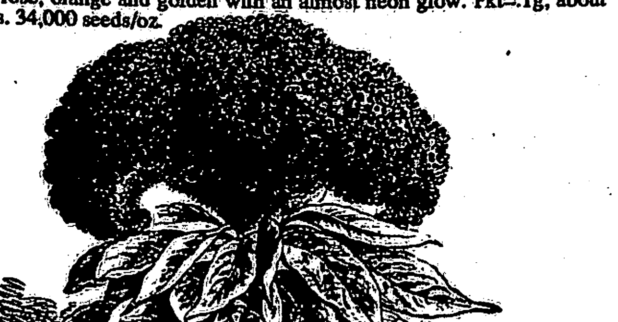
1512 Blue Clips Bellflower *Campanula carpatica* Masses of light cobalt blue bellflowers cover plants that are only 8" high. A very hardy perennial (to zone 3) that is easy to grow, Blue Clips will bloom in sun or partial shade from June to October. Pkt=.05g, about 600 seeds. About 340,000 seeds/oz. A only.

COCKSCOMB *Celosia cristata*

Sow indoors 4 weeks before last frost in peat pots. Too-early seeding and cold temperatures can cause premature flowering. Seedlings sensitive to both drying out and damping off; apply even moisture. Pinch early heads to induce branching.

1514 Apricot Brandy *C. c. plumosa* All-America selection. Compact 12" plants ablaze with very uniform apricot-orange plumes. Needs light to germinate. Pkt=.1g, about 115 seeds. 32,000 seeds/oz.

1515 Coral Gardens This is an extra-dwarf brain type growing fairly large flowers on compact 10" plants. Blooms display a rich mix of red, crimson, rose, orange and golden with an almost neon glow. Pkt=.1g, about 120 seeds. 34,000 seeds/oz.



1517 Purple Palace Coral Bells *Huechera sanguinea* Returning after a one-year absence from our list, this striking perennial border plant stood out in our tour of Zone 4 Perennials' gardens in Sidney. Its showy 12" ivy-shaped mahogany-red leaves (discard the few plants that make green foliage) make it an attractive ground cover. Its small white bell-shaped flowers are insignificant. Plant spring or Sept. in good soil, sun or semi-shade. Divide and sidedress every three years. Pkt=.02g, about 400 seeds. 560,000 seeds/oz. BACK!

1519 Early Sunrise Coreopsis *C. grandiflora* 1989 All-America selection was based on its ability to bloom weeks earlier than other Coreopsis varieties. Dense well-branched 18" perennial plants are loaded with 2" semi-double vivid yellow blooms. Start indoors in cool place 6-8 weeks before setting out in sunny spot. Do not cover seed. Leave dead foliage on plant until spring. Pkt=.1g, about 40 seeds. 12,000 seeds/oz.

COSMOS *C. bipinnatus*

See also 1281.

1520 Picotee A unique bicolor cosmos for the aficionado. Flowers vary in hue from white to pink to rose, with each serrated petal edged in contrasting magenta. Bright golden centers. Plants grow 4' climaxed by blooms 2½-3" across. A nice addition to your cosmos bouquet. Pkt.=.5 gram, about 60 seeds. 3,500 seeds/oz.

1521 Sea Shells If each petal on an Early Sensation were to curl into a tube, they'd have the striking delicate look of a Sea Shells. 3' plants come in the usual mix of red, pink and white shades, each with a yellow button eye. A lovely cosmos. Pkt=.5g, about 85 seeds. About 5,000 seeds/oz.

1522 Versailles Pink Eye Caught our attention because it was a foot shorter and a week earlier to bloom than Early Sensation. Petals light pink at the tips darkening as they approach the yellow centers. Prolific blooms good for cutting. Pkt=1g, about 135 seeds. 3,900 seeds/oz.

1525 Figaro Dahlia *D.* x *hybrida* Nikos has been growing this one for years in preference to Rigoletto because it is earlier and more compact, with a wider range of flower forms, including single, semi-double and double blooms. Colors include red, rose, mauve, violet, orange, salmon, yellow and white. Dahlia is sensitive to day length. If sown in March or April needs to be shaded for 10 hours/day during the first four weeks after emergence. Transplant after frost. 10". Pkt=.4g, about 40 seeds. 2,800 seeds/oz.

FLOWERING KALE *Brassica oleracea*

Pkt.=.2 gram, about 70 seeds. 10,000 seeds/oz.

1530 Red Chidori F-1 hybrid. Flowering kale is called "Ha-Botan" in Japan, meaning "leafy peony." The Japanese are world leaders in hybridizing this species, and in Red Chidori, they have brought their work to its ultimate expression. Of all our trial varieties, Red Chidori had the brightest purple outer leaves and the sharpest red centers. These colors reach their finest shortly after frost when other hues are fast fading away in the garden. Red Chidori leaves have finely ruffled edges which further accent their beauty.

1531 Red Peacock F-1 hybrid. An unusual flowering kale with an open plant habit and large lacinated leaves. Can grow enormous (1½' high and 2' wide), looking a little like a brightened version of Red Russian Kale on steroids! Very stately in the late summer and fall garden.

1535 Marine Heliotrope *Heliotropium arborescens* Native to Peru, an old-fashioned scented flower with a rich history. It was "to be sown in the Spring, a delicious flower...the smell rewards the care," wrote Thomas Jefferson. Victorian-era rose beds were often edged with heliotrope and it is still cultivated in Europe as a fragrance for perfumes. The scent is akin to that of sweet violet, but deeper, and has been described as similar to almond or cherry pie. Works well in hanging baskets or containers as well as in the front of borders–any location where the scent will readily reach you. It may be transplanted indoors for the winter. 14-18" plants with dark green leaves bear royal blue flower trusses. Somewhat slow, erratic germinator. Pkt.=.1 gram, about 150 seeds. 42,500 seeds/oz.

1536 Pink Splash Hypoestes *H. phyllostachya* Also known as Polka Dot Plant, Baby's Tears, Freckleface or Measles Plant. This 6-8" pink-and-green foliage plant functions much like a coleus with the same growing habit and predilection for filtered light. Shade increases its color intensity. Brightens up a drab winter as an indoor pot plant, and fills a unique niche in summer borders. We don't know why so many of you have spurned this unusual cultivar. Packet=.05g, about 35 seeds. About 21,500 seeds/oz.

1538 Pink Swirl Mix Impatiens *I. wallerana* Formerly known as Super Elfin Pastel Mix. 8-10" freely branching plants that are covered with masses of pastel colors: blue pearl, pink with a rose eye, salmon with a coral eye, white, coral, pink and salmon. Impatiens are the #1 bedding plant in this country because they do so well in shade and require so little care. Start indoors. Provide even moisture; do not overfeed. Need light to germinate. Pkt=.03g, about 55 seeds. 50,000 seeds/oz.

MARIGOLD *Tagetes* spp.

1542 Bonanza Deep Orange French Dwarf Double *T. patula* With the most intense orange of any marigold, this dwarf French has blooms that are 2" across on plants that grow about 1' tall. Easy to grow, early to bloom and very uniform in habit, Bonanza was an excellent performer in the 1991 trials. Pkt=.2g, about 65 seeds.

1545 Queen Sophia French Dwarf Double *T. p.* Award-winning anemone-flowered dwarf, each plant produces many bicolored blooms. Flowers are deep orange rust and, as they mature, petals are edged with gold. Named for Queen Sophia of Spain. 10-12". Pkt=.7g, about 230 seeds.

1548 First Lady African Semi-Dwarf Double *T. erecta* Voted the favorite of all the All-America flower winners. A lovely 20" border or hedge plant, covered with sunny yellow double carnation-like flowers 3½" across which keep coming till frost. Pkt=.1g, about 35 seeds.

1551 Inca Orange African Semi-Dwarf Double *T. e.* A wonderful home garden marigold completely blanketed with big 4-5" flowers on full 14" plants. The blooms are fully double, start early, and keep going all summer unless they get waterlogged in a storm and break off. Pkt=.1g, about 32 seeds.

1554 Moon Lily *Datura inoxia* Also known as Angel's Trumpet or Tolguacha. *This plant is poisonous and no part of it should ever be ingested.* Its effects are described by Carlos Castenada in The Teachings of Don Juan. It is also of spectacular beauty, growing 3' tall and spreading with huge 6" white trumpets of indescribable ambrosial fragrance which open at night. This close relative of Jimson Weed will be a real conversation piece in your garden. Poor germinator. Pkt=.25g, about 20 seeds. 2,300 seeds/oz.

1558 Only the Lonely Nicotiana *N. sylvestris* Also known as Woodland Tobacco. For years we looked for a nicotiana whose fragrance was deep enough to allow us to overlook the gangliness of the plant. The dwarf varieties always let us down. But this 5' variety is stately enough to look almost handsome, and its powerful fragrance perfumes the garden both day and night. You might want to plant it near a door or under your bedroom window where you can enjoy the smell during the night. Clusters of drooping tubular white blossoms. Pkt=.02g, about 640 seeds. 911,104 seeds/oz.

1562 Jolly Joker Pansy *Viola* x *wittrockiana* All-America winner. Although it lacks the usual "face," its vibrant color combination of orange and purple make Joker an eye-catching addition to your garden. It is one of the hardiest pansies, as well as one of the slowest to "stretch." 8". Pkt=.1g, about 70 seeds. 20,000 seeds/oz.

PETUNIA *P.* x *hybrida*

Start indoors in warm place 8 wks before setting out after danger of frost. Do not cover seeds; light aids germination. Use loose media and avoid overwatering. About 280,000 seeds/oz.

1568 Daddy Mix This very showy hybrid grandiflora has big 4" ruffled blooms in shades of light blue, orchid, peppermint, pink, plum and strawberry with darker veins. Visually stunning in baskets, these uniform plants also exhibit good weather tolerance when planted in the sunny section of your garden. 12-15". Pkt=.03g, about 300 seeds.

1570 Purple Wave Petunia F-1 hybrid. If you've given up on petunias because they're "wimpy" or require too much fussing, you must try these. Each plant carpets the ground with a spread of 4x4' of vivid purple color. Purple Wave showed extreme drought tolerance in our 1995 trial, sailed through light frost and bounced back after torrential rain. Although never deadheaded nor cut back, the 3" flowers just kept coming and coming and coming. If you're looking for one to grow in containers or you need to cover a lot of ground or you just want a beautiful sea of color, try Purple Wave. 1995 AAS winner. Pelleted seed. Packets by seed count, contain about 10 seeds. NEW!

1575 New Hybrids Mix Phlox *P. paniculata* F-1 hybrid. Perennial phlox blooms from June till frost. Excellent for borders and cutflowers. Mix of whites, pinks, reds and lilacs. Freeze seeds 10 days before sowing indoors, or direct seed in cold soil. Slow germinator, takes 3-4 weeks. Likes full sun. 3'. Pkt=.25g, about 20 seeds. 2,500 seeds/oz..

PORTULACA *P. grandiflora*

The familiar Moss Rose is good for bedding, in hanging planters and most colorful in massed plantings. Easy to grow, can stand heat. Start in a warm spot. Needs light to germinate. Thrives in sandy soil, like full sun, blooms 8 weeks from sowing. Blossoms close in cloudy weather and late afternoons. Pkt=.01g, about 105 seeds. 295,000 seeds/oz. See also 1038.

1577 Sundial Mix A dramatic improvement in this South American native, exhibiting early blooming of large 2" fully double flowers which stay open longer than other mixes. Under the drought conditions of our 1995 trial, Sundial excelled, providing a vivid array of cream, fuchsia, gold, peppermint, orange, pink, scarlet, white and yellow colors on succulent low-spreading 6" plants. Honored as Australia's 1991 Flower of the Year. NEW!

1578 Sundial Peppermint An arresting color combination of light pink brushed with streaks of deep rose giving the overall effect of an old-fashioned peppermint stick. Our favorite strain in the mix. NEW!

1580 Carabiniere Salvia *S. splendens* 12-14" plants with bright red sturdy spikes held above the foliage. Salvia makes a brilliant colorful display in your garden. Carabiniere is a very uniform variety that blooms well in light shade. Cut the initial flower spike after the bloom fades to induce further development. Pkt=.2g, about 55 seeds. 7,500 seeds/oz.

1584 Sonnet Mix Snapdragon *A. majus* F-1 hybrid semi-dwarf. The best snapdragon in our trials, the blooms were refined, early and in a full range of very bright colors. Annual grows 20". See #1420 for culture. Pkt=.025g, about 50 seeds. 180,000 seeds/oz.

VERBENA *V. x hybrida*

Clusters of starry blooms cover this 6-10" hybrid annual bedding plant. Free-flowering, long-lasting blooms make a stunning vibrant border. Prechill seeds 5-7 days in refrigerator before sowing. Pkt=.2g, about 70 seeds. 10,000 seeds/oz..

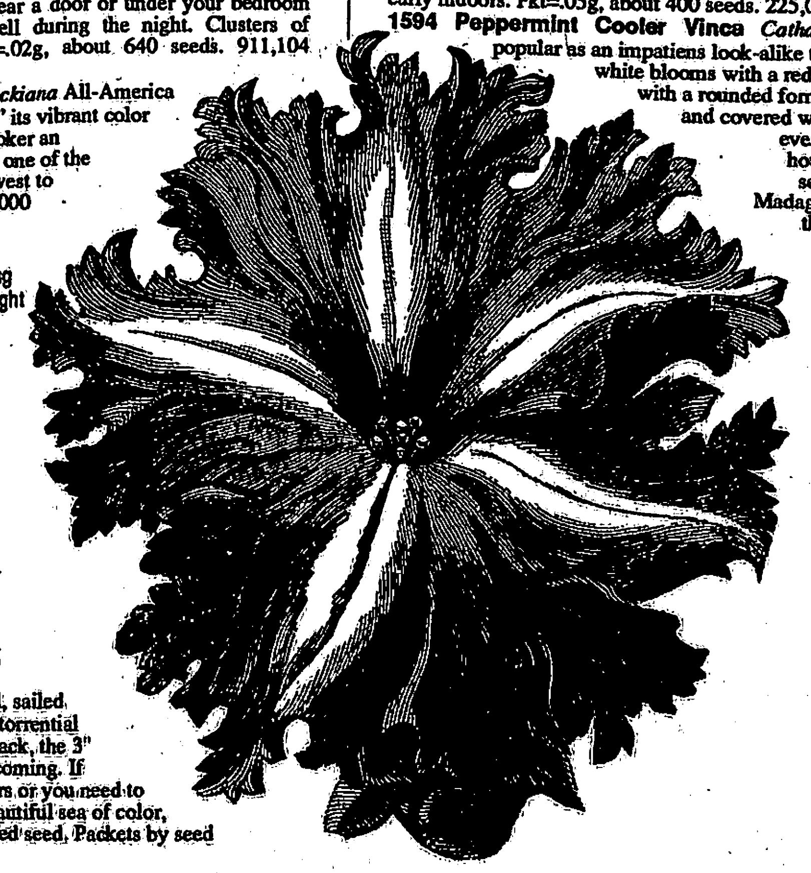
1589 Novalis Deep Blue Striking purple blooms with white starlike centers. 1989 All-America winner.

1592 Novalis Scarlet We liked the blue version so much that we decided to trial the mix in 1990. The blue and scarlet work so well together in the mix that we decided to carry both. Interplanting the two will give you a striking border.

1593 Sightseeing Mix Veronica *V. spicata* What a glorious sight when they're all blooming together! A wonderful mix of pink, white and blue-violet flowers. Perennial also known as Speedwell makes a good border. Growing uniformly to 2-2½' with erect, pointed spikes, makes a great cutflower. Hardy to Zone 4, and will bloom the first year if started early indoors. Pkt=.05g, about 400 seeds. 225,000 seeds/oz. A only

1594 Peppermint Cooler Vinca *Catharanthus rosea* Increasingly popular as an impatiens look-alike that does well in the sun. 2¼" white blooms with a red "eye" and overlapping petals with a rounded formal appearance. Remains neat and covered with blooms until frost and can even be used as an everblooming houseplant. Don't overwater the seedlings. 15" plant also called Madagascar Periwinkle is related to the common vinca or creeping myrtle. Pkt.=.2g, about 150 seeds. 21,000 seeds/oz.

1597 Ruffles Mix Zinnia *Z. elegans* F-1 hybrid. Bred for bouquets. Flat-petaled, double to semi-double flowers on long stems. Free blooming, respond to frequent cutting. Yellow, scarlet, pink & cherry blooms. Form an elegant hedge 24-30". The most refined zinnia in our selection. Pkt=.15g, about 15 seeds. 3,000 seeds/oz.



EVERLASTINGS

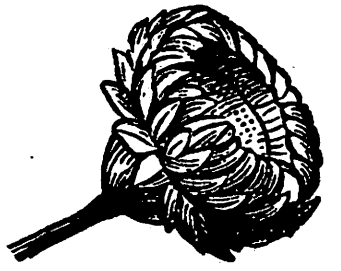
Seeds per packet for flowers are approximate. They are intended as guides, not guarantees, because we pack by weight, not by count. **Packet weight is listed with each flower; for B and C weights, please consult grid order form.**

Flowers are arranged here by common name. A chart of common uses is on page 37. An index of botanical names is on p. 43.

Available in three sizes except where noted. Annuals except where noted.

A=80¢, B=$2.00, C=$5.50

1700 The Pearl Achillea *A. ptarmica* This hardy perennial bears no resemblance to wild yarrow. Instead it has individual clusters of fully double pure white blooms with a small yellow center, almost like a large double Baby's Breath. Easily cultivated, it spreads nicely and can be used for a "wild" border. Moreover, the flowers are fine for cutting from spring until frost and can be enjoyed either fresh or dried, adding an engaging splash of white to arrangements. 2'. Pkt.=.05g, about 350 seeds. 200,000 seeds/oz.



1701 Acroclinium *Helipterum roseum* Also known as Sunrays. Daisy-like flower which may be used fresh as cutflower. Pick in bud stage; will open as it dries. White, rose and pink shades. Start in cool place 2 mos. prior to setting outdoors, or sow direct outdoors after frost. Annual. 2'. Pkt=.2g, about 100 seeds. 12,600 seeds/oz.

1704 Blazing Stars *Liatris spicata* Perennial also known as Gayfeather. 18" spikes of rosy purple flowers for cutflowers or drying. Start indoors in late winter in cool place and set out in spring in 6-8 weeks or direct seed in spring. Takes 3-4 weeks to germinate. Pkt=1g, about 330 seeds. 9,500 seeds/oz.

1707 Green Gold Bupleurum *B. griffithii* I'd never heard of this plant until Nikos brought a dried stem to the office. Bupleurum is not well known except in Dutch flower auctions where it commands a price similar to roses, but this unique plant is gaining attention by dried flower growers. Its well-branched 2' stems with yellowish flowers air-dry perfectly, retaining their green color and looking like they had been dried in glycerine. Moreover, because each stem fans out, an individual stem provides backdrop for an entire arrangement, either fresh or dried. Start indoors early to reach full growth potential. Pkt=.2g, about 70 seeds. 10,000 seeds/oz.

1709 Pink Candle Wheat Celosia *C. c. spicata* An improved wheat celosia that is more adaptable to growing in northern climes than other kinds. Like melons, it requires a little extra attention for success. Start indoors early, transplant before flowering without permitting shock, and use row covers outdoors. Its shining rose-pink plumes on long strong stems are well worth the extra fuss. They hold up well as cutflowers and dry beautifully. The 3' clumps are lovely as a vertical pink accent for late season displays. Colors, which lighten during summer's heat, intensify in the cooler temperatures of fall. Pkt=.1g, about 85 seeds. 24,500 seeds/oz.

1711 Forest Fire Cockscomb *C. c. plumosa* Plume-type celosia or Feather Amaranth shows bright scarlet flowers, with strikingly beautiful bronze-red foliage. 30-36". Pkt=.2g, about 300 seeds. 43,500 seeds/oz.

1714 Chinese Lantern *Physalis alkekengi* Perennial grown for its deep orange "lanterns," the calyx which surrounds the red fruit. May be sown indoors in warm place. Germination takes 3-4 weeks; do not cover seeds. Likes full sun. Dig out every three years to prevent invasion. Pkt=1g, about 600 seeds. 17,500 seeds/oz.

GLOBE AMARANTH *Gomphrena globosa*

Easily grown in any soil, likes hot sun. One of the most prolific. Tolerates some frost. Beautiful clover-like 1" flowers on 2' stems. Can also be enjoyed as bedding plant. Sow indoors in warm spot, 2 months before setting out. Do not overwater. Packets of individual colors contain .1g, about 40 seeds; mix = .2g, about 80 seeds. 12,000 seeds/oz.

1722 Orange Stood out in our 1994 trials for the large reddish-orange blossoms with a hint of yellow undertone, well suited for fall holiday arrangements. Growers will prize their long strong stems and vibrant colors. 18". Pkt.=.1 gram, about 25 seeds. About 7,300 seeds/oz.

1725 Purple Bright purple, almost fuchsia.

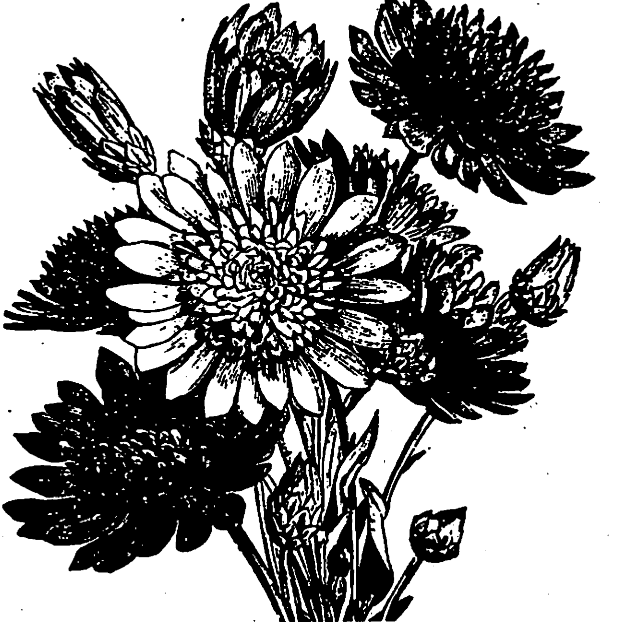
1727 Gis Red Beautiful strawberry-red profuse blooms which will add vibrant color to your arrangements. Replaced Strawberry Fields.

1729 White

1731 Mix Shades of purple, rose, lavender & white.

1737 Honesty *Lunaria annua* Also known as Silver Dollar, Moneyplant, and Moonwort. Winter-hardy biennial has fragrant lavender flowers, but is usually grown for its large silver seed pods which are lovely in winter bouquets. Sow indoors in cool spot before setting out to a sunny location or direct sow spring or fall. 3' Pkt=1g, about 50 seeds. 1,500 seeds/oz.

1740 Immortelle Mix *Xeranthemum annuum* Papery daisy-like flowers 1½" across in a wide range of colors; also a nice cutflower, grows to 3'. Grown easily from seed, or can be started early indoors. Germinate at 70-75° in 2-3 weeks. Pkt=.25g, about 190 seeds. 22,500 seeds/oz.



1743 Lamb's Ear *Stachys byzantina* Also known as Wooly Betony. 1' perennial with soft fuzzy leaves and purple flowers has a silvery appearance. Needs light to germinate. Was formerly used to bandage wounds. Makes a good bedding plant. Pkt=.2g, about 110 seeds. 16,000 seeds/oz.

LOVE-IN-A-MIST *Nigella* spp.

1746 Persian Jewels Mix *N. damascena* Profuse blooms in pink, blue and white shades surrounded by a cloud of greenery make lovely bouquets. Seed heads are used dried and are especially nice with a little bit of the flower attached. Direct seed as soon as ground can be worked, or sow indoors in a cool spot 2 months prior to setting out. Plant in full sun. 18" Pkt=.4g, about 160 seeds. 11,000 seeds/oz.

1747 Transformer *N. orientalis* No, this is not an electrical plant. It generates no power, only yellow flowers followed by curiously shaped seed pods that may be "transformed" into seven-pointed stars by splitting the pods open at the seam and folding them back in a form of floral origami! Unique and easy to grow. 2' tall. Pkt=.5g, about 200 seeds. About 11,400 seeds/oz.

1748 Exotic *N. hispanica* I have a single velvetleaf plant growing in my field from which I harvest starry seed pods every year for Christmas ornaments. The velvetleaf is a farmer's bane, a pernicious weed, but oh, those pods! Exotic's golden brown pods are similar to velvetleaf's with a more spidery appearance that will add interest and volume to any dried arrangment. Unlike velvetleaf, this annual won't be a nuisance in the field. Doubles as a serviceable cutflower blooming with an arresting shade of deep blue—almost purple—with open form and striking maroon stamens. Sitting atop 16" stems, the blossoms hold longer in a bouquet than other Love-in-a-Mists. Likes full sun or light shade. Pkt=.1g, about 90 seeds. About 25,500 seeds/oz. NEW!

1751 Tricolor Salvia *S. viridis* Also known as painted sage. This prolific little beauty is splendid both as a dry flower or as a filler in fresh arrangements. Although its leaves are entirely green, it gains its name from its white and blue flowers set off by large pink-to-purple bracts. Easily air-dried, it will remain very colorful, flowering until frost if old blooms are removed. 18" stems. Pkt=.5g, about 340 seeds. 19,000 seeds/oz.

1755 Ping Pong Starflower *Scabiosa stellata* Small white flowers dry to ball-shaped intricately designed seed heads centered by delicate maroon stars. Should be seen to be appreciated. 2' annual. Pkt=.4g, about 10 seeds. 800 seeds/oz.

STATICE *Limonium sinuatum*

Faithful standby in everlasting bouquets; also good in fresh arrangements. Annual reaches 2-2½' on sturdy stems. Flowers may be gathered for drying many times throughout summer. Sow in warm spot indoors 2 mos. prior to setting out. Grow in full sun. Seed is rubbed for easier germination. Packets of individual colors contain 60 seeds= .2g; mix 120 seeds=.4g. 8,400 seeds/oz.

1759 Apricot

1762 Atrocaerula Blue Medium deep violet blue.

1765 Lavender

1768 Rose Beauty Red.

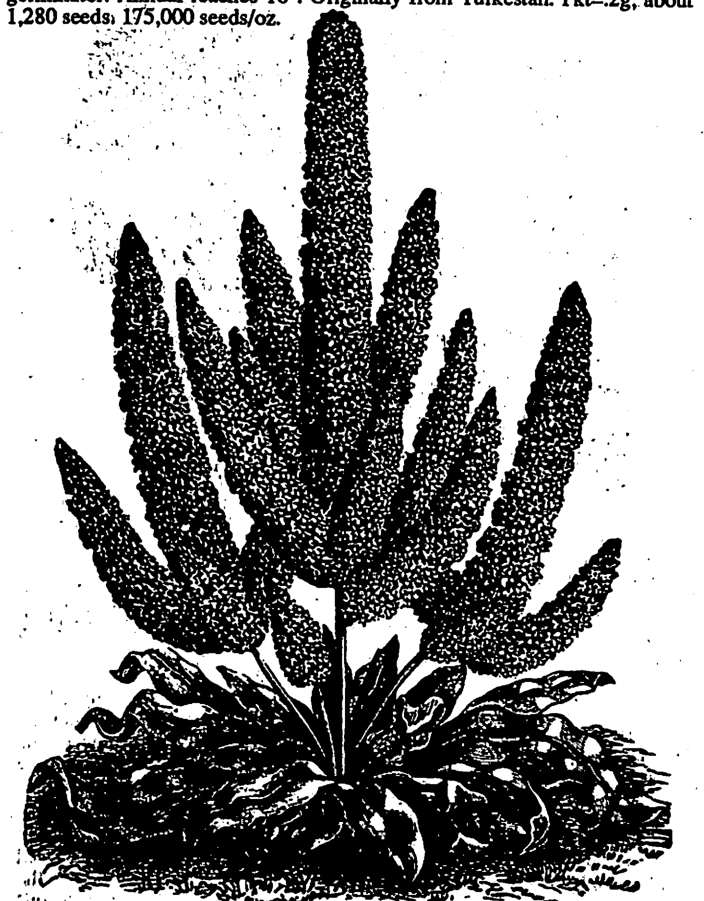
1770 Purple Monarch Deep purple.

1773 White

1775 Mixed Colors

1776 German Statice *Goniolimon tataricum* Large silvery-white flower heads for drying. Grow indoors in a cool place 6 to 8 weeks, set out in early spring, or direct seed early spring or late fall. Perennial. Clean seed. 20". Pkt=.05g, about 50 seeds. 31,000 seeds/oz.

1778 Russian Statice *Psyllostachys suworowii* Long gracefully curved branched spikes with bright rosy-pink flowers. Good color retention. A poor germinator. Annual reaches 18". Originally from Turkestan. Pkt=.2g, about 1,280 seeds. 175,000 seeds/oz.



1780 Gabriele Rose Beauty Strawflower *Helichrysum cassianum* Each stem produces a cluster of small daisy-like rose pink flowers with yellow centers. The doubled petals create a full "starry" effect. The 16" plants are easy to grow, like full sun, and are already nearly dry when fully developed. Their texture and ability to hold color well enable them to fill a significant area in arrangements. Pkt=.1g, about 27 seeds. About 8,000 seeds per oz. NEW!

STRAWFLOWER *H. bracteatum*

The freeblooming strawflower is good for border color as well as for drying. Monstrosum varieties grow 30-40" tall, have 2-2½" fully double flowers. Likes warm weather but will produce blooms into fall. Gather blossoms before fully opened. Sow indoors in a warm spot 2 mos. before setting out. Do not cover seeds. Grow in full sun. Colors: pkts=.2g, about 260 seeds, 36,000 seeds/oz; Mix: pkt=.33g, about 400 seeds, 45,000 seeds/oz.

1781 Monstrosum Fire Ball Bright red.

1782 Monstrosum Silvery Rose A very subtle bicolor with pink center petals surrounded by a silvery white hue. Borne on well-branched plants that start producing 3½-4 months after indoor seeding.

1784 Monstrosum Mix Hot pink, light pink, white, gold and deep rose.

1785 Bikini Mix These bikinis bear bright pink, red, white, yellow and gold double flowers on dwarf 14-18" plants in just 12 weeks. Several commercial arrangers we know prefer them to the taller strawflowers. Pkt=.1g, about 130 seeds. 36,000 seeds/oz.

1786 Sweet Annie *Artemisia annua* Also known as sweet wormwood. For years our booth at Common Ground Fair was adjacent to Delightful Odds and Herbs. They always had Sweet Annie for sale. We've come to know its pungent fragrance and to associate it with the fair. Increasing numbers of fairgoers have asked for its seed. Annie grows up to 5', with light green leaves valued for everlasting wreaths. It will reseed itself. Seed must be frozen for 2 days, then germinated in light. Pkt=.2g, about 50 seeds. 7,000 seeds/oz.

1787 Grandiflora White Winged Everlasting *Ammobium alatum* To some people its branches look winged...to me they just look sinuous. No argument, though, that its white petals with yellow centers look mighty good in arrangements. Sow indoors 8 to 10 weeks before setting outdoors in sunny location. 24". Pkt=.5g, about 1,200 seeds. 67,500 seeds/oz.

GRASSES

Meet Fedco's enlarged selection of grasses: a special tool in the flower arranger's kit. Choose these decorative annuals for their differing forms as well as for their colors. The intricate designs of their heads make great accents.

1788 Sheba Barley *Hordeum vulgare* While we were at Khadigar on a steamy summer day in 1993, a small field of Sheba, its proud amber waves standing upright without so much as a nod to the furnace overhead, made one of the grandest garden displays I had ever witnessed, completely upstaging the peas we had come to see. Sheba will interest any gardener with even the barest of aesthetic ambitions, including those totally uninterested in harvesting the grain. (Incidentally, have you ever baked Tassajara barley bread with roasted barley flour? On second thought, let's not ignore the grain!) Sheba is a 6-row naked-seeded spring barley which originated in Egypt. Its strong 4' plants don't lodge. Try it. You'll never be content with an all-vegetable garden again. Seed organically grown by Will Bonsall at Khadigar. Pkt=28g, about 885 seeds. AB

1789 Large Brome Grass *Bromus lanceolatus* Also known as Mediterranean Brome. Outstanding quality for dried flower arrangements. Tedious to harvest, but its texture is so nice in wreaths, bouquets and arrangements that it is worth the effort. Requires early sowing and a good growing season for a successful harvest. Everlasting trialer Michael Gulick grew a successful crop in 1994 but not in 1993 or 1995 at his scenic but chilly Northeast Kingdom location. Not high yielding but beautiful for dried work, the 2-5" heads are similar to those of Foxtail Millet, but not as purplish. They turn from purple to greenish-tan as they mature, and become more segmented, affording different looks at different stages. Pkt=.5 gram, about 125 seeds. About 7,000 seeds/oz.

1790 Small Brome Grass *Bromus secalinus* Delicately segmented 2" flower heads culminating in short 1" spikes on 18" plants. Head colors range from green to golden. Pkt.=1 gram, about 250 seeds. 7,000 seeds/oz.

1791 Red Broom Corn *Sorghum vulgare* (105 days) Not a true corn, broom corn looks and grows like corn but develops no ears, producing instead, a tall spray of seed heads at the top of the plant in lieu of a tassel. These 2-3' sprays are laden with shiny red ⅛" seeds which birds love. Incorporate seeds into edible bird feeder wreaths or leave them intact to add a bit of variety to traditional fall decorations, or comb them out of the dry stalks so that the seedless heads can be tied together to make straw brooms. Broom corn is the true source of our natural straw broom. Stalks will grow up to 10' in an optimal season, more likely they will be one to three feet shorter in our climate. Pkt=4g, about 225 seeds. 1600 seeds/oz. NEW!

1792 Calico Popcorn *Zea mays* (105 days) An heirloom dual-purpose corn with 5-8" ears that look like Indian corn but are smaller in size. The shiny bright ears come in an array of colors, with red, yellow and calico most common, but brown, purple, blue, white and other combinations possible. Kernels are smaller than those of most Indian corns, but larger than conventional popcorns. Calico is both decorative and edible so you can hang it on your door in fall and pop the very same batch on Thanksgiving. Seed grown by the Biseks in Minnesota. Pkt=28g, about 250 seeds. 4,000 seeds/lb. NEW! A only.

1793 Hare's Tail *Lagurus ovatus* Grown for its soft grey-to-white dense wooly conical heads which feel like rabbit's fur and will literally tickle your fancy. Easy to air-dry; make a great addition to everlasting arrangements. 1' stems. Pkt=.1g, about 180 seeds. 51,000 seeds/oz.

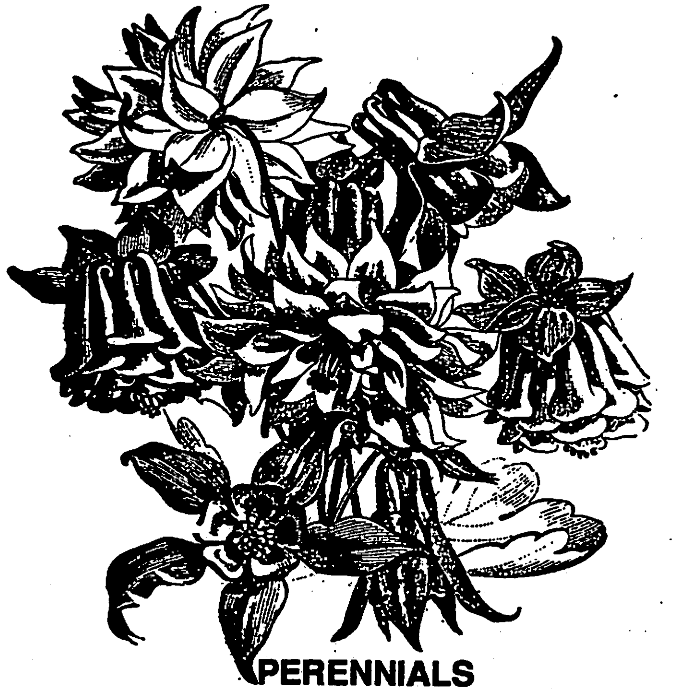
1794 Foxtail Millet *Setaria macrocheata* Its graceful 3-6" golden seed heads bobbing on an August breeze make an eyecatching display even before harvest. After harvest, Foxtail Millet makes a striking counterpoint in floral displays. Customers have been asking for this specific strain because its heads are softer and look less seedy than other types. Plant in June, harvest mid to late August. Seed organically grown. Pkt=1g, about 460 seeds. About 13,000 seeds/oz. NEW!

1795 Quaking Grass *Briza maxima* Also known as Totter Grass. An old favorite for floral designers. The large 2½" rattle-like seed heads hang from strong 14-16" stems. Pkt=1g, about 190 seeds. 5,500 seeds/oz.

1797 Black Sorghum *Sorghum nigrum* 6-8' plants topped with robust oval black inflorescences. Shorter and earlier than other sorghum varieties which often reach 12'. Sorghum, originally from Africa, is cultured in the South for the sweet syrup of its stalks. In the ornamental trade it is used as the focal point for large arrangements, an intriguing choice for contrast. Harvesting the heads at the right stage is an exact science; gotten too early they are not dark enough, too late they may discolor or shatter. Pkt.=1g, about 60 seeds. 1700 seeds/oz.

1798 Spelt *Triticum spelta* Spelt has been cultivated since ancient times. A hardy variety of wheat which is very tough, highly adaptable to our rigorous climate and grows well even in poor soils, Spelt sports a rich golden shaft with somewhat 4-sided 3-5" spikes. Although its spikes are slender and loose, the heads are tough and won't shatter. Spelt is good for braiding because it has a long shaft before the first joint. Heads show quite a color range from green to green-gold to white. Pkt.=1g, about 8 seeds. 225 sds/oz.

1799 Silvertip Wheat x *Triticosecale* Actually a wheat/rye cross. Silvertip combines vigor with beauty, developing 4" long seed heads, even in cold climates. Silvertip comes early with attractively light glumes and awns which last a long time without discoloring atop the 2-3' plants. Highly recommended by Michael Gulick and by far the best of the eight wheats he trialed for us in 1994. Seed organically grown in Maine by Roger Poole of Green Leaf Farm. Pkt=14g, about 115 seeds. 230 seeds/oz. NEW!



PERENNIALS

Seeds per packet for flowers are approximate. They are intended as guides, not guarantees, because we pack by weight, not by count. **Packet weight is listed with each flower; for B and C weights, please consult grid order form.**

Flowers are arranged here by common name. A chart of common uses is on page 37. An index of botanical names is on p. 43.

For other perennial flowers, see 1095, 1138, 1151, 1161, 1163, 1167, 1169, 1170, 1501, 1512, 1517, 1519, 1575, 1593, 1700, 1704, 1714, 1743, 1776.

Available in three sizes except where noted.

A=60¢, B=$1.60, C=$4.00

1805 Single Alba Baby's Breath *Gypsophila paniculata* Lovely as a border plant in masses, bearing many white tiny single flowers. If cut before fully opened, useful as an everlasting. Seeds may be sown direct, do not cover. Grows to 3'. Pkt=.7g, about 940 seeds. 36,000 seeds/oz.

1807 Butterfly Weed *Asclepias tuberosa* This bright sun-loving perennial provides a bold splash of orange color from June until frost. Vigorous mounded 2x2' plants bear broad 5" heads of waxy flowers attractive to butterflies. Both the flowers and pointed seedpods which follow are useful for cut arrangements. Choose a permanent site with well-drained fertile sandy soil because its tuberous roots do not like to be disturbed. Direct sow in spring or fall. Recommended for zones 4-8. Pkt=.2g, about 40 seeds. 5700 seeds/oz. NEW!

COLUMBINE *Aquilegia* spp.

To many, columbines are an essential part of the cottage garden or border. Their spurred flower in mixed colors seem to bring the fairies into the garden.

1809 Mrs. Scott Eliot Mixed *A. caerulea* Free-blooming white, red, lavender and pink flowers rising to 30" on strong stems. Will bloom 1st season if seeds are sown indoors in early spring. Do not cover. Takes 2-4 weeks to germinate. Likes sun, can tolerate some shade, flowers May and June. Attracts hummingbirds. Pkt=.6g, about 80 seeds. 3,800 seeds/oz.

1810 European *A. vulgaris* A much better landscape plant than Mrs. Eliot or McKana's Giants because its leaves will remain green through the whole season. Blossoms are mostly pink, with a few purple and white shades. 2½'. Pkt=.3g, about 240 seeds. 22,500 seeds/oz.

1814 Goldsturm Coneflower *Rudbeckia fulgida* A profusion of shining golden yellow flowers with dark central cones in August and September. Hardy perennial transplants well and has larger flowers (up to 5" across) than its wild counterpart (Black-Eyed Susan). The 2' plants have long, strong stems ideal for cutting. Pkt=.1g, about 90 seeds. 25,000 seeds/oz.

1815 Bressingham Hybrids Coral Bells *Huechera sanguinea* Palest pink to deepest crimson sprays of graceful bells rise from hardy plants of heart-shaped foliage. Start indoors in cool place 8-10 weeks before setting out in partial shade. Need light to germinate. 18". Pkt=.02g, about 390 seeds. 560,000 seeds/oz.

DELPHINIUM spp.

Stately dense racemes make delphinium popular as a background plant, as a mass in the border, and as a cutflower. Likes sun, can tolerate some shade. Heavy feeder; sidedress in spring with well-composted manure. All types 13,000 seeds/oz.

1819 Astolat Pacific Giant *D.* x *elatum* Pastels of lilac, raspberry and rose with dark bees. 6'. Pkt=.2g, about 90 seeds. AB only

1822 Summer Skies Pacific Giant Light heavenly blue with white bees. 6'. Pkt=.25g, about 110 seeds. NEW!

1824 King Arthur Pacific Giant Velvety royal purple with white bees. 6'. Pkt=.25g, about 110 seeds.

1825 Connecticut Yankee Mix *D.* x *cultorum* Dwarfed version grows only 3'; good where wind is a problem. 1965 All-America Selection in blue, purple, lavender and white. Pkt=.25g, about 110 seeds.

1829 Foxy Digitalis *D. purpurea* Also known as Foxglove. No wonder customers have been clamoring for us to get Foxy. A breeding breakthrough allows this 1967 AAS winning biennial to bloom the first season. Foxy starts blooming when only 18" high—just five months from seed—and continues with up to nine spikes apiece as it grows to a mature 3'. Germinates at 70-75° in about one week and grows easily in sun or part shade. Foxy's thimble-shaped flowers range from cream yellow to pinks, with many attractive spotted markings. Replaces Gloxiniaflora Mix. Pkt=.1g, about 1,000 seeds. 272,500 seeds/oz. NEW!

1833 Monstrosa Mix English Daisy *Bellis perennis* Blossoms look like elegant small double asters, in rose, pink and white. Biennial likes cool summers and should be protected in winter. Sow in August or start indoors 6-8 weeks before setting out in spring. Needs light to germinate. 6". Pkt=.5g, about 3,250 seeds. 182,400 seeds/oz.

1837 Blue Flax *L. perenne* subsp. Lewisii Also known as Prairie Flax. Single light-blue flowers with finely cut foliage for borders or rock gardens. Likes full sun. 9-12". Start indoors in a cool place 6-8 weeks before setting out or direct seed in cool soil in spring or fall. Pkt=1g, about 750 seeds. 21,000 seeds/oz.

HOLLYHOCK *Alcea rosea*

An old-time favorite for background color. Biennial, will reseed in good year. Needs staking. Cut flower stalk to induce rebloom. Likes full sun, lots of room, and moist soil. Seed may require alternate freezing and thawing to break dormancy. Start indoors in a warm place 2 mos. prior to planting. 3,240 seeds/oz.

1841 Chater's Double Mix Double flowered in shades of red, pink, yellow and white. 4-5'. Pkt=1g, about 115 seeds.

1845 Indian Spring Single Mix Customers asked us to find an old-fashioned single. 7' beauty favored by hummingbirds in shades of red, yellow, white and rose. 1939 AAS winner. Pkt=.25g, about 25 seeds.

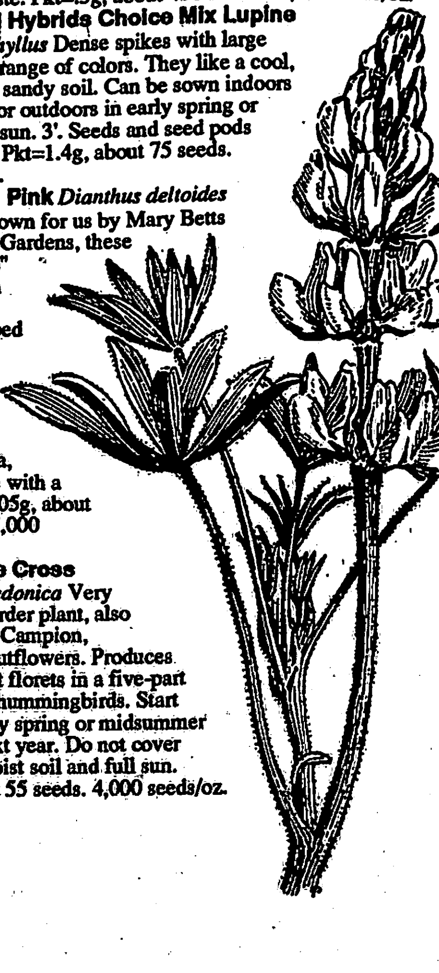
1846 The Watchman Single *A.r.* var *nigra* A truly antique cultivar once grown by Thomas Jefferson at Monticello and now finding its way back into contemporary gardens. This fetching biennial grows 5-7' and bears silky petals loosely described as "black." Strictly speaking, the 3-4" chalice-shaped flowers are dark maroon. Pkt.=.25g, about 32 seeds. 3,800 seeds/oz.

1851 Helen Mount Johnny Jump Up *Viola tricolor* Also known as Heartsease Pansy. This 4-6" favorite bears tricolor blooms in violet, lavender, and canary yellow. Small abundant flowers like partial shade. Can be direct seeded early spring for flowers late in season or sown in fall for earlier blooms the following year. Some call it invasive, others enjoy its cheerful spreading habit. Flowers make edible decorations with a faint wintergreen taste. Pkt=.5g, about 450 seeds. 25,500 seeds/oz.

1862 Russell Hybrids Choice Mix Lupine *Lupinus polyphyllus* Dense spikes with large flowers in full range of colors. They like a cool, moist spot and sandy soil. Can be sown indoors in late winter, or outdoors in early spring or late fall in full sun. 3'. Seeds and seed pods are poisonous. Pkt=1.4g, about 75 seeds. 1,400 seeds/oz.

1865 Maiden Pink *Dianthus deltoides* Organically grown for us by Mary Betts of Snowbrook Gardens, these low-growing 6" plants thrive in shade. Dense green mat topped with flowers blooming all summer in a variety of bright red, purple magenta, pink and white with a red ring. Pkt=.05g, about 275 seeds. 157,000 seeds/oz.

1867 Maltese Cross *Lychnis chalcedonica* Very desirable 3' border plant, also known as Red Campion, excellent for cutflowers. Produces brilliant scarlet florets in a five-part cross, attracts hummingbirds. Start indoors in early spring or midsummer for blooms next year. Do not cover seeds. Like moist soil and full sun. Pkt=.4g, about 55 seeds. 4,000 seeds/oz.

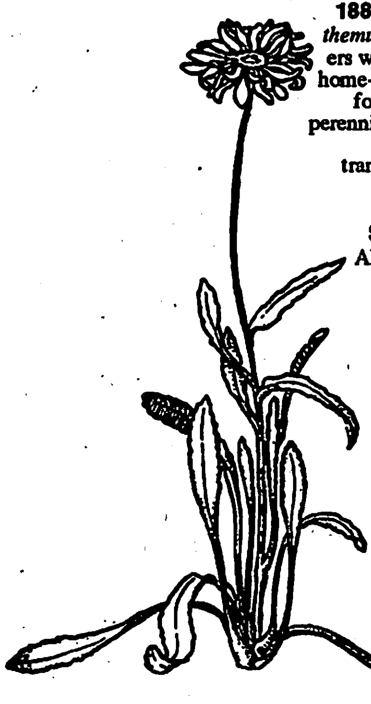


1869 Mountain Bluet *Centaurea montana* Also known as perennial Bachelor's Button. Airy 2½" flowers of violet-blue with purple centers are borne on bushy 2' plants. Easy to grow, they like a well-drained sunny location for best blooms July through frost. Pkt=.25g, about 20 seeds. About 2,150 seeds/oz.

1870 Musk Mallow *Malva moschata* Also known as Musk Rose. The perennial counterpart to annual lavatera, hardy to zone 4a, possibly zone 3. 1-3' plants produce abundant 2" rose or white flowers in mid-late summer on dark green deeply toothed foliage. A classic cottage garden flower which tolerates dry soil and thrives in sun or partial shade. Pkt.=.2 gram, about 100 seeds. 14,000 seeds/oz.

1872 Gartford Giants Mix Poppy *Papaver nudicaule* Sorry, crop failure. *Unavailable in 1996.*

1877 Dwarf Allegro Oriental Poppy *P. orientale* Long-lived perennial grows 16". Fern-like leaves, showy buds, opening to dazzling scarlet flowers with contrasting black eyes. Sow in June, transplant in October for flowers the following summer. Pkt=.05g, about 250 seeds. 145,000 seeds/oz.



1882 Alaska Shasta Daisy *Chrysanthemum* x *superbum* 3'. Clean white flowers with bright yellow centers make good home-garden cutflowers and border plants for sunny locations. One of the easiest perennials to grow; will usually bloom first year if started indoors in spring and transplanted when soil warms. Pkt=.5g, about 475 seeds. 27,000 seeds/oz.

1884 Red & Gold Hybrids Sneezeweed *Helenium autumnale* Also known as Sunny Bride. Genus is named for Helen of Troy. A rich chromatic scale of bronze, brown, crimson and yellow shades for an end-of-summer display. Single flowers resemble coreopsis but have a large center "button" like coneflower atop 4' plants. Not fussy, easy to grow, excellent for cutting. At its prime when most perennials have finished blooming. Pkt=.1g, about 500 seeds. About 142,000 seeds/oz.

1885 Perennial Sweet Pea *Lathyrus latifolius* The traditional English cottage sweet pea that thrives in cool climates, loves sun, climbs 6' and is useful as a screen. Comes in shades of rose, white and pink in big clusters. Good cutflowers. Soak seeds up to 24 hours before sowing outdoors in early spring. Can take 3-4 weeks to germinate. Pkt=1g, about 20 seeds. 600 seeds/oz.

1888 Double Choice Mix Sweet William *Dianthus barbatus* A fragrant biennial in red, pink, white, lavender or mixed colors. May be started 2 mos. before setting outdoors, or sown where it will grow in late summer or fall. Requires full sun and good drainage, likes lime. 18". Pkt=.5g, about 475 seeds. 26,600 seeds/oz.

1892 Creeping Thyme *Thymus serpyllum* Also known as Mother-of-Thyme or Brotherwort (not to be confused with Motherwort!). Creeping sweet-scented ground cover with purple flowers good in rock gardens, between stepping stones, or on dry slopes. Likes good drainage, full sun and alkaline soil. Plants grow slowly from seed, may be started indoors 2 mos. before planting, or outside in early spring or fall where they will grow. Sow thickly, do not cover seeds. 2". Pkt=.1g, about 800 seeds. 224,500 seeds/oz.

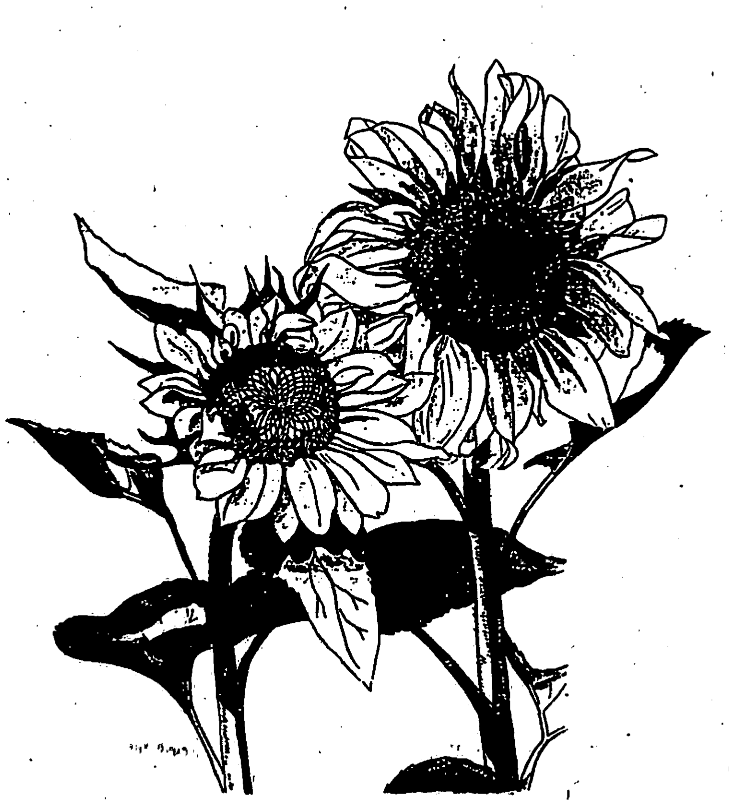
1897 Wildflower Mix for the Northeast. A blend of 20 perennial and annual species native to or naturalized in northeast US and Canada. Includes Dame's Rocket, Black-Eyed Susan, Shirley Poppy, Blazing Star and Bachelor's Button. Start in cool place indoors two months before setting out, or broadcast in spring or fall in a seedbed in a sunny spot. Pkt= 1.4g, about 3,000 seeds. 60,000 seeds/oz.

Herb & Flower Botanical Index

Achillea millefolium 1501
A. ptarmica 1700
Agastache foeniculum 1151
Ageratum houstonianum 1505-07
Alcea rosea 1841-46
Alchemilla mollis 1169
Allium schoenoprasum 1095
A. tuberosum 1114
Amaranthus caudatus 1335
A. gangeticus 1208
Ammobium alatum 1787
Anethum graveolens 1100-03
Anthriscus cerefolium 1092
Antirrhinum majus 1420,1584
Aquilegia caerulea 1809
A. vulgaris 1810
Artemesia annua 1786
A. vulgaris 1178
Asclepias tuberosa 1807
Bellis perennis 1833
Borago officinalis 1156
Brassica oleracea 1292-95,1530-1
Briza maxima 1795
Bromus lanceolatus 1789
B. secalinus 1790
Bupleurum griffithii 1707
Calendula officinalis 1241-49
Callistephis chinensis 1216-25,1510
Campanula carpatica 1512
Catharanthus rosea 1594
Celosia cristata 1514-5,1709-11
Centaurea cyanus 1226-32
C. montana 1869
Chenopodium botrys 1134
Chrysanthemum carinatum 1268
C. parthenium 1163
C. x superbum 1882
Clarkia amoena 1302
C. unguiculata 1271
Cleome hasslerana 1274
Cnicus benedictus 1155
Consolida orientalis 1307-22
C. regalis 1325
Coreopsis grandiflora 1519
Coriandrum sativum 1098
Cosmos bipinnatus 1281; 1520-2
C. sulphureus 1278
Dahlia x hybrida 1525
Datura inoxia 1554
Delphinium x cultorum 1825
D. x elatum 1819-24
Dianthus barbatus 1888
D. caryophyllus 1261
D. chinensis 1265
D. deltoides 1865
Digitalis purpurea 1040, 1829
Echinacea purpurea 1161
Eschscholzia californica 1408
Foeniculum vulgare 1106-8
Gomphrena globosa 1722-31
Goniolimon tataricum 1776
Gypsophila elegans 1212
G. paniculata 1805
Helenium autumnale 1884
Helianthus annuus 1428-37
H. debilis 1437
Helichrysum bracteatum 1781-85
H. cassianum 1780
Heliotropium arborescens 1535
Helipterum roseum 1701
Hordeum vulgare 1788
Huechera sanguinea 1517, 1815
Hypoestes phyllostachya 1536
Hyssopus officinalis 1167
Iberis odorata 1257
Impatiens balsamina 1236
I. wallerana 1538
Ipomoea nil 1359
I. tricolor 1356
Lagurus ovatus 1793
Lathyrus latifolius 1885
L. odoratus 1438-43
Lavandula vera 1170
Lavatera trimestris 1326-30
Leonurus cardiaca 1177
Levisticum officinale 1130
Liatris spicata 1704
Limonium sinuatum 1759-75
Linum grandiflorum 1289
L. perenne subsp. lewisii 1837
Lobelia erinus 1332
Lobularia maritima 1202-05
Lunaria annua 1737
Lupinus polyphyllus 1862
Lychnis chalcedonica 1867
Malva moschata 1870
M. sylvestris 1337
Marrubium vulgare 1166
Matricaria recutita 1160
Matthiola incana 1427
Melissa officinalis 1172
Mentha pulegium 1184
M. spicata 1135
Mimulus x hybridus 1355
Mirabilis jalapa 1298
Monarda citriodora 1173
Nasturtium officinale 1149
Nepeta cataria 1158
Nicotiana sylvestris 1558
Nigella damascena 1746
N. hispanica 1748
N. orientalis 1747
Ocimum basilicum 1054-77
O. sanctum 1154
Origanum heracleoticum 1136
O. majorana 1132
Papaver orientale 1877
P. rhoeas 1405
P. somniferum 1396-1399
Perilla frutescens 1145
Petunia x hybrida 1568-70
Phlox drummondii 1388
P. paniculata 1575
Physalis alkekengi 1714
Portulaca grandiflora 1038, 1577-78
Poterium sanguisorba 1034
Psyllostachys suworowii 1778
Reseda odorata 1354
Rosmarinus officinalis 1138
Rudbeckia hirta 1238
R. fulgida 1814
Ruta graveolens 1186
Salpiglossis sinuata 1036, 1380
Salvia farinacea 1416
S. officinalis 1141
S. splendens 1580
S. viridis 1751
Satureja hortensis 1144
Scabiosa atropurpurea 1392
S. stellata 1755
Scutellaria lateriflora 1189
Senecio cineraria 1285
Setaria macrochaeta 1794
Silybum marianum 1175
Sorghum nigrum 1797
S. vulgare 1791
Spilanthes oleracea 1192
Stachys byzantina 1743
Tagetes erecta 1352,1548-51
T. patula 1339-44,1542-45
T. tenuifolia pumila 1345-48
Thymus serpyllum 1892
T. vulgaris 1147
Tithonia rotundifolia 1353
x Triticosecale 1799
Triticum spelta 1798
Tropaeolum majus 1364-76
T. peregrinum 1253
Urtica dioica 1182
Verbena bonariensis 1448
V. x hybrida 1589-92
Veronica spicata 1593
Viola tricolor 1851
V. x wittrockiana 1384,1562
Xeranthemum annuum 1740
Zea mays 1792
Zinnia elegans 1456-72,1597
Z. haageana 1462

SHIRTS, BOOKS & CARDS

1995-6 T-Shirts A bee busily works over two bright yellow sunflowers on our five-color T-shirts. With stems that tuck into your pants, these sunflowers elicit admiration from all who've seen them. We sold more of these last year than any previous design. Natural unbleached 100% cotton short- and long-sleeved beefy T's. Sizes are medium (38-40), large (42-44) and extra-large (46-48). Artwork by Peggy Strong of Ellsworth, ME; printed by Liberty Graphics of Liberty, ME. $11.00 short-sleeved; $14.00 long-sleeved.



Bright sunflowers grace the Fedco Seeds T-Shirt

2305 Botany for All Ages 2nd ed., by Jorie Hunken and the New England Wild Flower Society, 157 pages, 8½x11, softcover. Ideas for over 100 activities designed as environmental education projects for kids, with a new section on endangered plants and more emphasis on environmental concerns in this edition. Clearly the author has a profound understanding of young minds. The projects show great imagination, such as making rain meters from haircap mosses, whistles from acorn caps, bouncing cranberries and searching for hitchhiking seeds. $14.00

2306 Breed Your Own Vegetable Varieties by Carol Deppe, 303 pages, 7½x9, softcover. Once or twice a generation a gardening book appears which strikes a perfectly resonant chord. Such a book must answer a need at just the precise time when interest in its topic is waxing. It must be accessible, technically correct yet inspirational, and address a seminal topic. Deppe has written such a book. Until relatively recently, all our food varieties were developed and improved by amateurs. Plant breeding is too important to be restricted to a small coterie of gene-splicers working for a handful of large multinational corporations. Deppe, at once a working geneticist and amateur plant breeder, shows how to make the step from seed saver to breeder. She makes genetics understandable and accessible, so that even if, like me, science was your worst subject in school, you can comprehend the topic with only a little work. She provides inspirational stories about other plant breeders such as Tim Peters, whose work is in our catalog. And she provides a wealth of additional resources that are only a letter or phone call away. $19.00

2307 Buffalo Bird Woman's Garden as told to Gilbert L. Wilson, 129 pages, 6x9, softcover. "Besides our squashes, we also gathered squash blossoms, three to five basketfuls at a picking; and they were a recognized part of our squash harvest...These blossoms we picked in the early morning when they were fresh, but not if rain had fallen in the night...In my father's family we always put away one sack full of dried squash blossoms for winter." Buffalo Bird Woman (1839-1917), an expert gardener of the Hidatsa tribe, lived in Like-A-Fishhook village along the Knife River in present-day North Dakota. $9.00

2310 The Complete Medicinal Herbal: A Practical Guide to the Healing Properties of Herbs by Penelope Ody, 192 pages, 8x11¾, hardcover. As informative as it is beautiful, this easily accessible and useful reference is also a visual feast. It will invite you to linger for long hours with its extraordinary photographs or provide you with a rapid reference to practical details such as where to find the flavonoids in burdock. An A-to-Z of over 120 herbs with detailed photographs of the parts used medicinally, descriptions of traditional uses, active ingredients, therapeutic principles, proper preparations and dosages offers the most graphic herbal instruction course I've ever seen. Not your usual plant drawings here: You'll see close-up photos of the active parts—be they seed, root, leaf or bark—and dishes and jars of the tinctures, ointments, creams and oils in their true colors.

Your immune system need strengthening? A reference section arranged by ailments and sprinkled with case histories leads you to two possible remedies (astragalus and echinacea), with their actions, suggested uses and dosages and proper precautions. Why do the Chinese use schizandra in the spring? What was Gandhi's opinion about flax seed? Why did overindulgent Romans eat raw cabbage? From the fabulously illustrated first chapter which "looks at the major herbal systems in different parts of the world throughout the ages," to the detailed reference materials in the last chapter, this book will satisfy and delight as it instructs. NEW! $30.00

2312 The Contrary Farmer by Gene Logsdon, 237 pages, 6x9, softcover. In the same vein as Wendell Berry (indeed, Berry's "Contrariness of the Mad Farmer" is the frontispiece), Logsdon celebrates those Ramparts people who "in all ages have camped on the edges of the earth, the buffer between our more conventional brethren and those nether regions where, as the medieval maps instructed, 'there be dragons and wild beestes.'" Unafraid to subject conventional wisdom to penetrating analysis, Logsdon makes a particularly perceptive distinction between pastoral and industrial economics which gets to the core of the decline in rural American culture. His work goes beyond celebrating the independence of the cottage farmer to offer practical advice to those would-be practitioners of the art. Interspersed among the philosophy are useful discussions about needed tools, proper animal husbandry, the art of felling trees with a chain saw, and much more. Logsdon would have you think as you work. As his father once said in casual conversation, "A bulldozer in the hands of a wise man does good work; in the hands of a fool even a spade is dangerous." $17.00

2313 Designing and Maintaining Your Edible Landscape Naturally by Robert Kourik, 370 pages, 8½x11, softcover. A treasure trove of information with terrific charts, tables and illustrations! Whether you want to know about dynamic accumulators, plants with multiple edible parts, pollinators for fruit trees or orchard root stocks, Kourik has the right chart for you. Or maybe you'll be drawn to the fascinating illustrations of the root structures of vining squash, beets, cabbage, sweet corn and other garden denizens. Or want to learn what the presence of red clover, Canada thistle, goldenrod, lamb's quarters, stinging nettle and 115 other plants tells about the fertility and drainage of your land. Or even find out the 13 rules of edible landscaping and the 10 causes of mental block! Whether you're a professional landscaper or a novice to whom pruning presently makes as much sense as international economics, Kourik can give you "the whack on the side of the head" that awakens your creativity. $20.00

2315 Down-to-Earth Natural Lawn Care by Dick Raymond, 154 pages, 8½x11, softcover. "We get red in the face pushing the mower around week after week, determined to keep the green, green grass of home in check...Between beheadings, though, we water the grass like crazy and...forcefeed the lawn, urging the same blades we crewcut into submission to grow, grow, grow.

"What's wrong with this picture? Plenty," says Margaret Roach, garden editor of Newsday, "starting with our schizoid dilemma: Do we want the grass to grow or do we want to make it stop?"

Moreover, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that Americans use 70,000,000 pounds of active pesticide ingredients on their lawns each year. Of the forty different pesticides commonly used on home lawns, twelve are suspected carcinogens and twenty-one have been shown to cause detrimental long-term health effects in laboratory animals and humans.

Most of that frenzy of mowing, watering, fertilizing and spraying is unnecessary. In Natural Lawn Care, Dick Raymond offers a basic course on how to have a healthy lawn without the histrionics. He tells how to revitalize an old lawn, how to seed in a new one, what to do about diseased spots, and how and when to fertilize. He includes short sections on the many different available grasses (there's been an explosion of good new varieties in the last decade) and the common lawn weeds. NEW! $17.00

2317 Drip Irrigation for Every Landscape and all Climates by Robert Kourik, 118 pages, 8½x11, softcover. Given our weather the past three summers, trickle-down engineering that works is a timely topic in the Northeast. As a farmer who has a lot of tubing hooked up, even I learned a few new tricks. Those new to the topic will find Kourik's step-by-step trip through the ins and outs (quite literally) of tubing to be clear and accessible. Appendices of flow and percolation rates will be useful to both the tubing neophyte and initiate. Kourik's sense of humor, best revealed in his remarkable glossary, is an unexpected bonus. So is his imaginative bibliography, where he purports to be able to put you in touch with the essence of water. And you thought dripology was a dry subject! $12.00

2323 First the Seed: The Political Economy of Plant Biotechnology by Jack Ralph Kloppenburg Jr., 349 pages, 6x9, softcover. Shattering has gotten all the reviews but First the Seed is *the* book if you want to know how the seed trade really works and how it influences our agricultural system. How has the seed become a commodity? What brought about the great hybridizing revolution? What are the implications of the new genetically engineered varieties? It's all here: a rich theoretical Marxist framework, balanced by superb historical analysis, and backed by documented factual detail. Not easy reading, but worth the effort. $19.00

2327 The New Organic Grower's Four-Season Harvest by Eliot Coleman, 206 pages, 8x10, softcover. Four-Season Harvest is another gardening classic by Coleman, doing for home gardeners what his New Organic Grower is doing for commercial growers. If, instead of stale California iceberg lettuce and Mexican hothouse tomatoes, you'd prefer your February salad to be made from fresh mâche, claytonia and arugula, Coleman tells you how to do it. Key to his system is extending the harvest season by succession planting and crop protection, using low-tech homemade devices such as cold frames and tunnels. His prose is practical, yet poetic: "Do you want return on investment? One tomato seed, yielding at least 1000 to 1 in four months, makes even the highest fliers seem paltry. Are you fascinated by design and miniaturization? The finest computer is but a crude makeshift device beside a tomato seed..." $17.50

2330 The Garden Seed Inventory, 4th ed. by the Seed Savers Exchange, 632 pages, 6x9, softcover. Here's where to turn when you are looking for a commercial source for Sultan's Golden Moon Bean, Six Shooter Sweet Corn, Opal's Homestead Tomato or any other hard-to-find heirloom cultivar. This comprehensive inventory of 245 US and Canadian mail-order seed companies taken from 1994 catalogs lists 6,483 open-pollinated varieties (237 offered by Fedco), including 1,800 new introductions. We have found this an indispensable tool in our searches for unusual historical varieties of merit. NEW! $24.00

2333 Gardening for Fragrance ed. by Tania Bayard, 96 pages, 6x9, softcover. This delightful Brooklyn Botanic Garden booklet invites you to delve into the biological aspects of scent and to consider the lore and lure of perfume before descending into the garden to visit its most fragrant plants. Here you will find many old favorites from our selection including Sweet Annie, sweet peas (especially the older grandiflora varieties), nasturtiums (the name means "nose-turning"), white-flowered gourds such as Cucuzzi, Carpet of Snow Alyssum, four o'clocks, our new addition mignonette, pinchusion flower, and the intoxicating woodland tobacco *Nicotiana sylvestris*. Come along the scented path and delight in the fragrance of lavender, oregano, basil, spearmint and feverfew. And here are the old-fashioned roses to further thrill your nose. You are even invited back out for a nocturnal stroll to sample the rare aromas of a small group of night bloomers. When you finally achieve olfactory overload, perhaps you will want to peruse the bibliography which includes such wonderful classics as The Fragrant Garden by Louise Beebe Wilder. "Smell," wrote E.F. Benson, "is the most memoristic of the senses." NEW! $7.00

2334 Gardening in the Shade ed. by Janet Marinelli, 96 pages, 6x9, softcover. We could have as easily offered this Brooklyn Botanic booklet in our tree or bulb catalogs because it includes dwarf conifers, daffodils and other bulbs, hardy vines, trees and shrubs, and hostas as well as ground covers and annuals that thrive in shade. Impatiens and balsam are dependable in shade. Other Fedco annuals that do well in medium to light shade include honesty, lupine, calendula, bachelor's button, sweet alyssum, lobelia and vinca. The generous table towards the back of the book is the place to look for more shady characters. NEW! $7.00

2335 The Book of Garden Secrets by Dorothy Patent and Diane Bilderback, 351 pages, 8x10, softcover. After a decade out of print, this gardening classic, a favorite of CR, Nikos and Roberta, was revised. While the authors unwisely deleted a superb chapter on foretelling weather, they otherwise improved the work by introducing illustrations which make it more accessible. Secrets forms a structural "bone" in a good gardening library. Patent and Bilderback know gardening from both sides: the pragmatics of organic gardening in a cold climate (they practice their craft in western Montana) and the underlying plant biology, in which they have degrees. Why are potatoes a better source of protein than soybeans? How can you bleach-treat pepper seeds to speed germination? Why should you not prune suckers off corn plants? Even a seasoned gardener will learn something from them. $18.00

2336 Growing Great Garlic by Ron L. Engeland, 213 pages, 6x9, softcover. Garlic is the world's second most important allium crop, behind onions, and is rapidly winning new converts. If garlic is your passion, or even just your avocation, you'll enjoy this book. Engeland, an expert who successfully grows and sells over 100 strains and even markets a paper he makes from the discarded bulb wrappers, has written the definitive guide to growing garlic. He devotes thirty pages to varietal differences, adds a fascinating chapter on history, and provides in-depth cultural information on growing, harvesting, storing and marketing garlic. $13.00

2339 Herbs for Sale by Lee Sturdivant, 246 pages, 5½x8½, softcover. Sturdivant has mastered the 3 I's: She involves, inspires and instructs. Along the way, she has a keen sense of marketing. Although I was aware that interest in herbs has been growing at an astonishing rate, I had not fathomed the diversity of products and herbal businesses that had sprouted. Sturdivant's tours of successful enterprises were particularly delightful, especially when I found two of Fedco's very good friends: Eric Brandt-Meyer at Good Earth Farm in Freeport, and Wendy and Jack Newmeyer who built Maine Balsam Fir Products in the wilds of West Paris. Comprehensive reference lists conclude each chapter. Sturdivant convinced me that we at Fedco could enhance our own herbal expertise by subscribing to two of the publications she lists, "The Business of Herbs" and "HerbalGram." $15.00

2341 Hort Ideas Published monthly by Greg and Pat Williams. An invaluable newsletter full of intriguing summaries of the latest research on a wide variety of horticultural topics including trees, shrubs, vegetables, flowers and horticultural products and accessories. A source of many wonderfully wacky ideas such as using dog chow instead of beer as slug bait! We discovered many of the books in this section through reading reviews in Hort Ideas. $20.00

2344 The Humanure Handbook by J. C. Jenkins, 198 pages, 7¼x9, softcover. To paraphrase the late great Lenny Bruce, "everybody does it, nobody talks about it." Jenkins talks about it. He does not lead you in gently. He gets in your face about it. His is a self-published manifesto. He is outraged that each of us wastes nearly a thousand pounds of humanure every year, deposited in sewers and septic systems throughout the land. What does that have to do with the state of our agriculture? Everything. Americans, according to Jenkins, squander nearly 250 million tons of solid waste each year. Meanwhile, global consumption of artificial fertilizers rose by almost 900% from 1950 to 1980. The charts and graphs in his first chapter make the inescapable connections. Nevertheless, many of us will still be horrified that Jenkins advocates the use of humanure as a fertilizer. Why are we Westerners so fecophobic? Jenkins is not shy about probing our psychological hangups which ultimately he ascribes to "worms and disease"! Neither is he afraid to address the scientific basis for our qualms nor to advocate solutions which he believes can overcome those fears which he considers legitimate. The answer, says Jenkins, is to use low-tech sawdust toilets and to thermophilically compost our refuse into rich pathogen-free humus for our gardens. And he goes into the details about how to do it, based on his own 15 years of experience. Not convinced? Ponder Jenkins' opening paragraph: "The world is divided into two categories of people: those who shit in the drinking water and those who don't. We in the Western world are in the former class...After polluting the water with our body's digestive system byproducts, we flush the once pure but now polluted water 'away.' Away to where? Good question." Many of us think "shit" is an obscenity. Maybe Jenkins will do to our concept of shit what Bruce did to the concept of obscenity! NEW! $14.50

2346 Identifying Diseases of Vegetables by A.A. McNab, A.F. Sherf, and K.K. Springer, 62 pages, 8½x11, softcover, University of Pennsylvania. Excellent photographs facilitate accurate disease identification. Includes all the popular vegetables and all the common diseases which affect them. BACK! $15.00

2347 The Insect Workbook by the Entomological Society of America, 80 pages, 8½x11, softcover. Revised edition of this Fedco family staple formerly entitled Coloring Fun with Insects. We sold over 700 copies of the first edition. Back after a year out of print. 40 drawings of common insects for coloring, with non-pejorative information about each insect's natural history. Gives elementary-age kids a chance to have fun while learning some basic entomology, and raises everyone's consciousness about insects. Now includes step-by-step instructions which enable kids to conduct their own field studies as well as build pit traps and ant farms. BACK! $5.50

2359 Llewellyn's 1996 Organic Gardening Almanac 258 pages, 5¼x8, softcover. By the creators of The Moon Sign Book. Valuable for its tables which facilitate planting by the moon. Also features articles by contributing experts on such diverse topics as naturopathy, building a non-toxic home, organic pet products, using bee venom, and harvesting astrologically, along with gardening and agri-culture articles by John Navazio, Susun Weed, Stephen McFadden and others. $6.00

2365 The New Organic Grower, 2nd ed. by Eliot Coleman, 304 pages, 8x10, softcover. Although I could never be as organized, systematic, logical and disciplined, I've always admired Eliot Coleman, and his mentors Helen and Scott Nearing. Coleman crafted this classic out of his 2 decades of experimentation. A must if you are now, ever have been, or ever wish to be a market grower. The chapters on crop rotation and green manures alone are worth the price. This edition contains new chapters on low-cost tunnel construction, generating increased fertility in your soil, cutting-edge market-gardening ideas, and the commercialized winter garden. Coleman has revised the section on organic pest management to include new developments. $20.00

2367 The New Seed Starters Handbook by Nancy Bubel, 385 pages, 6¼x9, softcover. Revised edition of a gardening classic by a 30-year gardening veteran. If you start your own seeds indoors, you'll find many practical suggestions. Includes new sections on raising garden flowers, wildflowers, and trees and shrubs from seed. $16.00

2368 **Peppers: A Story of Hot Pursuits** by Amal Naj, 245 pages, 5x8, softcover. Who would have thought twenty years ago that Americans would ever spend more on hot sauces than on catsup? Already a $3 billion industry, our romance with the piquante has just begun. Sixty per cent of the hot peppers cultivated in the States are grown in New Mexico. Take a trip with Naj to Hatch, New Mexico, self-proclaimed chile capital of the world, where the town's population of 3,000 swells tenfold for the annual Hatch Chile Festival which coincides with peak harvesttime. Here, the relative merits of such varieties as Sandía, NuMex Joe Parker, NuMex 6-4, and Big Jim are hotly debated and loyalties to one or another are taken seriously. Head on to Las Cruces, home of New Mexico State University where two dozen plant breeders are working on improving the chile. Cruise to New Orleans, site of the Tabasco war between McIlhenny Company and B.F. Trappey's. Naj, an Indian who grew up disliking peppers, takes you on the journey of his own rediscovery of this crucial element of his native cuisine. We discovered last year that our customers would rather eat hot peppers than read about them. Because we're overstocked, we are now offering Peppers as a bargain special! $8.00

2369 **Pictorial Guide to Perennials** by M. Jane Coleman Helmer and Karla S. Becker Hodge, 128 pages, 8x10¼, softcover. If, like me, you have just begun delving into the fascinating field of perennials, you need a book with lavish detailed pictures. Pictorial Guide delivers more than 300 of them, along with basic descriptive information, propagation methods and hardiness. Now I have the perfect reference when a customer suggests an additional perennial for our catalog, or when I just want to anticipate what I'm going to put into those new beds. If you've been longing to learn about perennials, but have been daunted by all the choices, here's your starting point. $13.00

2370 **Proceedings of the Northeast Farmer to Farmer Information Exchange Sweet Corn Meeting, 1992 and 1993 Winter Meetings** ed. by Ruth Hazzard, 34 pages, 8½x11, spiralbound. Under the auspices of NOFA and the University of Massachusetts, with support from the USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, a group of nine growers along with eight support persons gathered to exchange information. This summary of their discussions will be of primary benefit to commercial sweet corn growers, but also useful to home gardeners like us who like to plant a lot of corn. If your recent experience has paralleled ours, corn earworm incidence is becoming a serious concern, and this pamphlet has some excellent ideas for control. It also discusses in some detail weed management and cultivation strategies; cover crops, fertility and nitrogen management. A brief evaluation of growers' varietal likes and dislikes piqued my interest as well. $3.75

2371 **The Real Dirt** ed. by Miranda Smith and members of NOFA and Cooperative Extension, 264 pages, 8½x11, softcover. Here is a snapshot of organic best management practices in the early 1990s. The authors and editors devoted nearly five years to research, compile, write, review, condense and weave an immense amount of material into The Real Dirt's anecdotal praxis. Here you will meet many of the leading practitioners of organic agriculture in the Northeast–some like Eero Ruutilla, Elizabeth Henderson, Julie Rawson and Jack Kittredge longtime Fedco customers–who offer hands-on courses in soil management, rotations, composting, pest and weed management, greenhouse production, marketing and much more. $16.00

2372 **Root Cellaring**, 2nd ed., by Mike and Nancy Bubel, 297 pages, 6x9, softcover. According to the Bubels, a good root cellar provides a "direct, earthy and deeply satisfying connection between our summer efforts in the garden and our winter need for fresh wholesome food." If thoughts of crisp carrots in March set your mouth watering, let the Bubels take you on a well-illustrated tour of root cellar designs. They can also help with varietal selection, optimal storage conditions, and even an index of recipes. If you don't like Maine/Vermont/Connecticut Yankee, this classic will inspire your Yankee ingenuity. $13.00

2374 **The Roots of Healing: A Woman's Book of Herbs** by Deb Soule, illustrated by Susan Szwed, 256 pages, 6x9, softcover. Our relationship with the fairies at Avena Botanicals Herbal Apothecary, first kindled by the close proximity of our booths at Common Ground Fair, has grown closer each year. We long awaited the publication of Deb's first book, and you purchased a record 336 copies in 1995, more than double our previous best-selling title. If ever words could match the sheer artistry and joy of her extraordinary Avena gardens, Deb's lyrical passages come close, literally singing with the wholeness of her calling. Whether you seek simple, clear directions for making tinctures, decoctions, flower essences, salves and other remedies, the historical perspective to appreciate the healing tradition of witchcraft, or the inspiration to help find your own healing path, Deb guides the way. Fearlessly she breaks new trails, exploring a variety of women's concerns, offering support for women recovering from sexual abuse, and information on lesbian health issues never before addressed in an herbal. A wise woman in the best sense of the tradition, Deb has combined her 20 years of experience in growing, gathering, preparing and using herbs with her exceptional teaching skills and her profound affirmations to produce an enduring work of depth and vision. Illustrator Sue Szwed's work has graced our catalog for a number of years. $13.00

2375 **Herbal Note Cards** by Sue Szwed. A great way to send healing energy to your friends, this set of six cards features some of our favorite illustrations from The Roots of Healing. If you haven't read the book, glance through Fedco Seeds' catalogs to find examples of Sue's work, including last year's cover. Borage, heartsease pansy, yarrow, mugwort, dandelion and sarsaparilla root are illustrated, with a brief note about usage on the back. Blank inside, printed on tan, green and pink recycled paper, the 4¼x5½" cards with black line art come with matching envelopes. NEW! $4.50

2377 **Seed to Seed** by Suzanne Ashworth, 240 pages, 8½x11, softcover. This excellent book on seed-saving techniques for the home gardener is the sequel to the seed-saving guides once published by The Seed Savers Exchange. Folks familiar with his work in the Seed Savers guides can look forward to spectacular photographs by David Cavagnaro in Ashworth's book. Many of these shots were taken at the SSE's lovely gardens at Heritage Farm. This is the book our own seed growers use. $20.00

2378 **Sell What You Sow! The Grower's Guide to Successful Produce Marketing** by Eric Gibson, 302 pages, 8½x11, softcover. To paraphrase an old adage: What makes a good marketing book? Details, details, details! Gibson's book has got them. The expected chapters on pick-your-own, farmers markets, selling to restaurants and wholesaling are better than expected because Gibson has a knack for probing the needs and the psyches of prospective buyers: "A farmers' market is theatre, customers expect it to be more lively than a supermarket!...What makes you unique?" Want to know how to do break-even analysis? How to make your advertisements work as hard as your tractor? How to avoid being ripped off in the wholesale market? Gibson tells you. Willing to look into less pleasant aspects of business like dealing with insurance agents and county inspectors? Gibson is. By far the best of a spate of recent books on the subject that we've seen, Sell What You Sow won't tell you how to make $36,000 on your backyard acre without raising a sweat but will give you the tools to formulate reasonable expectations and to act on them. $22.50

2380 **Shepherd's Purse: Organic Pest Control Handbook** by PEST Publications, 52 pages, 5½x8½ softcover. A good handbook for home gardeners, with large color drawings of common insect pests, summaries of their life cycles, and available organic controls. Has a good index of suppliers of beneficial insects, "organic" and microbial products. $9.50

2383 **Spiritual Foundations for the Renewal of Agriculture** by Rudolf Steiner, 310 pages, 6x9, clothbound. This series of eight lectures and four discussions given by Steiner in 1924 form the basis for the biodynamic school of agriculture. Steiner made a plea that the alleged foolishness of farmers and peasants is actually wisdom in the eyes of God, and that much of the application of science to agriculture has resulted in true stupidity. In these lectures, Steiner laid out the philosophical justification for those mysterious preparations used by biodynamic practitioners. If you are curious about biodynamics, what better place to start your exploration than in the esoteric thought-provoking words of its founder? Not for the strictly practical. NEW! $17.50

2385 **Stella ★ Natura: Planting Calendar for Moon, Sun and Zodiac** published by The Bio-Dynamic Farming and Gardening Assn., 40 pages, 9x12 unopened. Would you like to know how to think like a seed? Are you curious about the mathematical basis of nature's forms? Are you aware of the signature of nitrogen in the air and in the earth? Or maybe you'd like to seed new patterns of community and culture! This year's articles address these topics and more on the theme of "Reading the Book of Nature: Form and Pattern." Also contains lunar and astronomical charts correlated with planting data, which many of our customers find valuable: "Down-to-earth advice for working with cosmic rhythms." Rudolf Steiner, founder of biodynamics, once said that "you can reckon with the effects of the stars without being the least bit superstitious." Formerly entitled The Kimberton Hills Agricultural Calendar. $9.75

Fedco Seeds Short Order Form (1020-EZ)

If your order exceeds 12 items please use the regular order form.

Customer Code (from mailing label) ____________________

Farm or Group Name ____________________

Name ____________________

UPS Shipping Address ____________________

Town __________ State ______ Zip ______

Telephone ____________________

Final order deadline - Friday, March 22, 1996

Delivery Options: choose one only
UPS: ______ regular (first in/first out)
Pickup: ______ early (must order by 1/19)
Pickup: ______ regular (must order by 2/16)
Pickup: ______ late (must order by 3/22)
Truck: ______ must contact Michael Gulick
Other: ______ Please specify ______

Make sure—by double checking each item in the catalog or on the large order form—that you are ordering an available size for the correct price.

Please write clearly. It's helpful to us if these are in catalog number order.

	Item Number	Size Letter	Item Name	Quantity		Price per each	Total Price
x	E8X	B	Cool Hand Zuke	2		0.00	0.00
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							

To order more than 12 items please use the regular order form. Do not squeeze them on here. If you need an order form, please call–we'll mail you one. Thanks.

Maine residents only - add 6% tax on flower seed and books (items 1200-2399 only) 6% Maine sales tax ______

There is no tax for folks outside Maine. SUBTOTAL ______

Please use this box ONLY if you are sending this order directly to Fedco Seeds

Add $5 if subtotal is under $50 ______

Volume discounts apply only to orders we receive on or before Feb. 16:
10% over $100; 15% over $200; 20% over $300; 22% over $600; 24% over $1000 Deduct volume discount ______

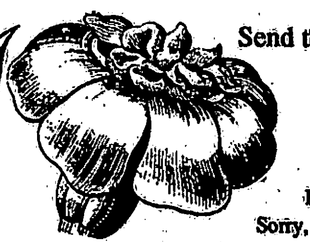
Deduct 10% if picked up ______

Deduct 1% organic grower discount ______

ADJUSTED TOTAL ______

MOFGA/NOFA membership(s) ______

GRAND TOTAL ______



Send to: Fedco Seeds
PO Box 520
Waterville, ME 04903

Please send one check payable to Fedco.
Sorry, we do not accept credit cards or food stamps.
If you send a Moose Growers Supply, Fedco Trees, or Fedco Bulbs order under the same cover, you may pay with one check.
You may not combine the orders to figure discounts or get around shipping/handling fees. Thank you.

FEDCO SEEDS

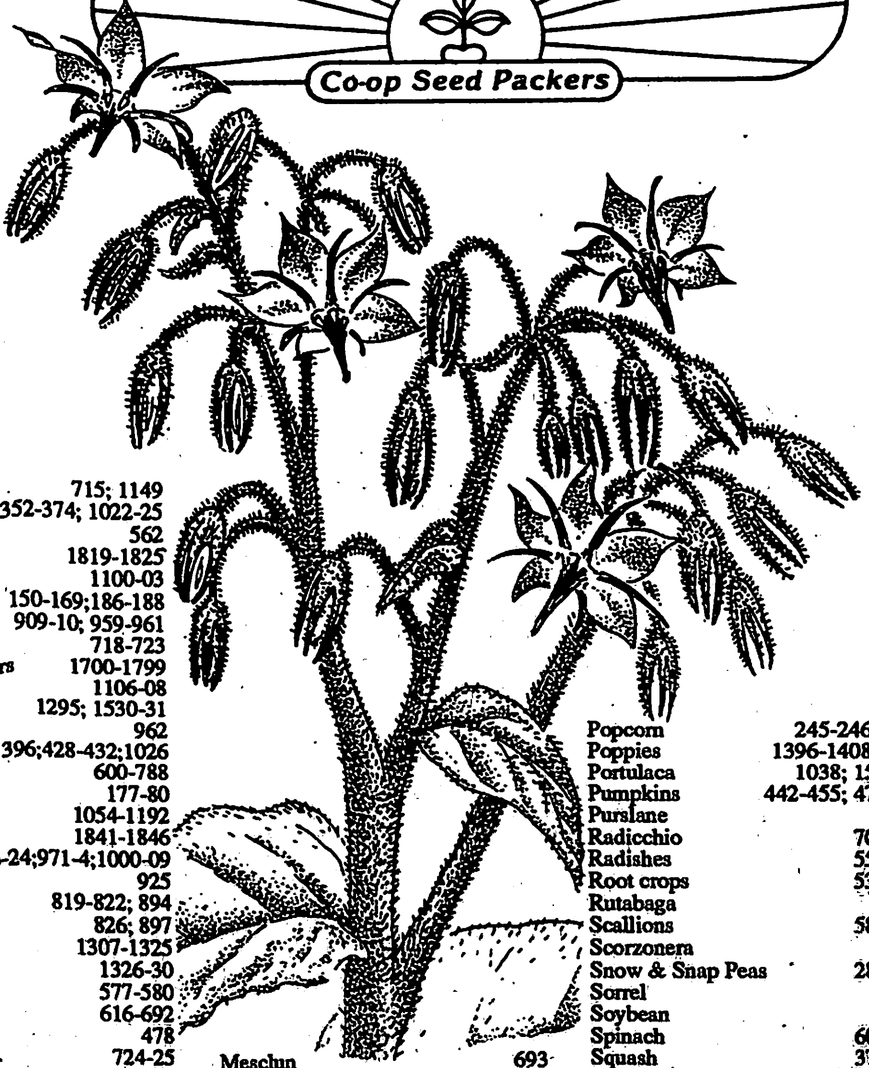
Co-op Seed Packers

Ordering Information
p 4-5

Macro Index

Our seeds are not arranged in alphabetical order.

They are grouped by general seed type:	page
Large seed - beans, corn, peas:	8-11
Cucurbits - melons, cukes, squash:	12-15
Roots - carrots, beets, onions:	16-17
Greens - spinach, lettuce, endive:	18-21
Brassicas - broccoli, cabbage, kale:	21-23
Solanums - eggplant, pepper, tomato:	23-29
Herbs - culinary, medicinal:	30-32
Flowers - annual, everlasting, perennial:	33-43
Herb & Flower botanical index	43



Micro Index

	catalog number
Ageratum 5506-10	1505-1507
Amaranths	~~5742-5799; 1208; 1335~~ P
Annual Flowers	1202-1597
Arugula	711
Asters	1216-25; 1510
Bachelor's Button	1226-1232
Basil	1054-1077; 1154
Beans	103-195; 1012
Beets	532-544
Books	2305-2385
Broccoli	802; 830-848
Brussels Sprouts	852
Cabbage	805-808; 854-874
Calendula	1241-49
Cantaloupe	305; 320-331
Carrots	502-528; 1027
Cauliflower	812; 875-890
Celeriac	958
Celery	904-908
Chard	712-713
Chinese Cabbage	784
Chrysanthemum	788; 1268
Cilantro	1098
Claytonia	701
Collards	816
Coneflower	1161
Corn	208-248; 1014-18
Cosmos	1278-1281; 1520-22
Cress	715; 1149
Cucumbers	352-374; 1022-25
Daikon	562
Delphinium	1819-1825
Dill	1100-03
Dry Beans	150-169;186-188
Eggplant	909-10; 959-961
Endive	718-723
Everlasting Flowers	1700-1799
Fennel	1106-08
Flowering Kale	1295; 1530-31
Globe Artichoke	962
Gourds	396;428-432;1026
Greens	600-788
Haricots Verts	177-80
Herbs	1054-1192
Hollyhocks	1841-1846
Hot Peppers	916-24;971-4;1000-09
Husk Cherry	925
Kale	819-822; 894
Kohlrabi	826; 897
Larkspur	1307-1325
Lavatera	1326-30
Leeks	577-580
Lettuce	616-692
Luffa	478
Mâche	724-25
Marigolds	1339-1352; 1542-1551
Melons	301-348
Mesclun	693
Morning Glories	1356-1359
Mustards	729; 768-772
Nasturtiums	1364-1376
Okra	963
Onions	584-598
Orach	733
Oriental Greens	765-788
Ornamental Grasses	1788-99
Pac Choi	778-80
Parsley	734-738
Parsnip	547
Peas	251-275; 1020
Peppers	911-24;964-974;1000-09
Perennial flowers	1805-1897
Popcorn	245-246; 1792
Poppies	1396-1408; 1877
Portulaca	1038; 1577-78
Pumpkins	442-455; 479-497
Purslane	702
Radicchio	705-707
Radishes	550-562
Root crops	532-574
Rutabaga	568
Scallions	581-582
Scorzonera	570
Snow & Snap Peas	282-298
Sorrel	746
Soybean	195
Spinach	600-614
Squash	376-497
Statice	1759-1778
Strawflowers	1780-1785
Summer Squash	376-399
Sunflowers	1428-1437
Sweet Peas	1438-43
T Shirts	1995-6
Tomatillo	926
Tomatoes	927-957;979-999;1030-2
Turnips	571-574
Verbena	1448; 1589-1592
Watermelon	308-313; 338-348
Winter Squash	403-424; 459-475
Zinnias	1456-1472; 1597
Zucchini	376-384

Art credits

Contributors: John Bunker, Sue Szwed, Gabriel Willow, and Dover Publications.
Front Cover: John Bunker

Catalog credits

Cultivar Selection: Nikos Kavanya & CR Lawn
Writing: CR Lawn
Editing & Production: Joann Clark
Layout & Design: Gene Frey & John Bunker
Thanks to to Mac and Huey who faithfully turned out the copy.

Fedco Seeds
PO Box 520
Waterville, ME 04903

address correction requested

Bulk Rate
US Postage
paid
Fedco Seeds Inc